



Queen to arrange royal family trip to save money

LONDON (AFP) — Queen Elizabeth II is to take over management of expenses for the royal family's next trip to save taxpayers' money, Buckingham Palace announced Thursday. The queen, who is expected to lead the royal family on a tour of the United States and Canada, is expected to take over the management of the trip's expenses, which are normally paid for by the government. The queen's trip is expected to be the first of a series of royal tours in the coming years. The queen's trip is expected to be the first of a series of royal tours in the coming years.

Palestinians to have first power station

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat announced Saturday that Palestinian self-rule areas would have their own electricity generating station by next year. "We will open our first power station and erect lines to provide electricity to all the territories next year," Mr. Arafat said in a speech read to an international conference on electrical power held Saturday in the West Bank city of Nablus. "Palestinians are suffering from a shortage of electricity like they suffer from other Israeli measures and today 13 per cent of the Palestinian people are without electricity," Mr. Arafat said in the address read by Nablus military governor Mahmoud Al Aloul. In his speech, which was distributed by the Palestinian news agency Wafa, Mr. Arafat announced the creation of a power authority and petroleum department in his self-rule administration to begin feasibility studies on building the power plant.

Jordan Times

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Palestinian-Israeli committees meet ahead of talks by negotiating teams

Palestinians say Hebron deal could be signed in days

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met late Saturday in a fresh bid to reach agreement on Israel's long-delayed withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron, Palestinian officials said. The two sides met as part of a joint security committee in Jerusalem, which included Palestinian security chiefs Jibril Rajub and Mohammad Dahlan, and a civilian affairs committee in Tel Aviv. An agreement on Israel's troop redeployment from Hebron, which is seven months behind the schedule laid down under the 1995 Oslo self-rule accords, is the key issue in U.S.-mediated peace talks between the two sides. Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour said his delegation had asked Israel to agree to U.S. participation in an international observation force in Hebron. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Tuesday called for U.S. troops in the West Bank town as part of an international peacekeeping force to be deployed after the Israeli pullout. Mr. Arafat's proposal was rejected by both Israel and the United States. But Washington did not totally rule out sending observers if both sides agreed. Israel and the Palestinians held two weeks of intensive negotiations in the Red Sea resorts of Eilat in Israel and Taba in Egypt which broke up on Friday without agreement. However, both sides said progress had been made on the Hebron redeployment and an accord could be forthcoming in the coming week. Discussions at the level of committees was to continue on Saturday and Sunday before full delegations return Monday for talks in Taba and Eilat. Meanwhile, Mr. Arafat telephoned Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa to brief them on the status of the talks with Israel, the Palestinian leader's advisor Nabil Abu Raddana said. Palestinian officials were upbeat late Friday after the latest round of negotiations, predicting an accord on

Arafat keeps King updated on talks

PALESTINIAN President Yasser Arafat, in several phone calls on Saturday, briefed His Majesty King Hussein on the progress in negotiations conducted by the Israeli-Palestinian security and civil committees. The King praised the patience of the Palestinian negotiators and underlined the need for confidence-building measures between the two sides, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

Israel's military redeployment in Hebron within days. "We can reach an agreement in the next few days," Minister for International Cooperation Nabil Shaath said after a meeting of the Palestinian cabinet. "On some points there are still differences but on others it appears there are no major problems," Mr. Shaath told journalists. Another Palestinian official, Mahmoud Abbas, also spoke of progress. "There has been movement in the past few days and if that continues we could reach an agreement soon," he said. A cabinet statement said Israel was entirely responsible for delays in implementing the redeployment agreement, and the peace process as a whole. It called on the Israeli government to show courage to allow

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Kabariti visits riot-hit stadium, says perpetrators of violence a minority

AMMAN (Agencies) —



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Minister of Youth Mohammad Daoudieh visit the Sports City football stadium on Saturday (Petra photo)

After riots broke out following a soccer match Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Saturday visited King Hussein Sports City and inspected various areas which had sustained damage. The violence erupted after a game between Al Faisali and Al Wihdat teams Friday evening. The supporters of the two teams battled with stones, soft-drink bottles and wooden clubs at Amman International Stadium after Faisali won the match 1-0. "We saw police forces storming into the stadium and firing tear-gas to disperse the angry crowd, who were beating each other with anything at hand," said one witness, who insisted on anonymity. Police dispersed around 30,000 spectators who went on a rampage outside the stadium, smashing windows of shops and cars. Witnesses said the trouble began when the referee blew his whistle at the end of the game and ruled as invalid what Wihdat supporters saw as a legitimate, last-second goal for their team. One witness said supporters of the Faisali Club then started chanting slogans in favour of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, angering supporters of Wihdat.

Mr. Kabariti voiced regret on Saturday over incidents in connection with the violence and the Public Security Department and the Jordan Soccer Federation were Saturday investigating the incident. During his visit to the sports facility and later to the Public Transport Corporation the prime minister inspected the 24 vehicles which were damaged in the melee. Minister of Youth Mohammad Daoudieh, in a statement to Jordan Television, expressed regret over the incidents and the damage caused. The minister, who accompanied Mr. Kabariti on his tour, noted that soccer violence occurred in many parts of the world. The authorities will take drastic measures to end such behaviour in Jordan, he added. Mr. Daoudieh said that Sports City officials had started repairing damaged

morals," he said. Some people were arrested in connection with the violence and the Public Security Department and the Jordan Soccer Federation were Saturday investigating the incident. During his visit to the sports facility and later to the Public Transport Corporation the prime minister inspected the 24 vehicles which were damaged in the melee. Minister of Youth Mohammad Daoudieh, in a statement to Jordan Television, expressed regret over the incidents and the damage caused. The minister, who accompanied Mr. Kabariti on his tour, noted that soccer violence occurred in many parts of the world. The authorities will take drastic measures to end such behaviour in Jordan, he added. Mr. Daoudieh said that Sports City officials had started repairing damaged

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KDP advances, poised to take Sulaimaniyeh

Combined agency dispatches BAGHDAD'S KURDISH allies were moving toward a stronghold of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in northern Iraq on Saturday, fueling fears of a new refugee exodus towards the Iranian border. U.N. officials said fighters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), led by Masood Barzani, took the town of Ranya early Saturday and were now converging on the PUK stronghold of Sulaimaniyeh, on the Iraq-Iran border. "The KDP is currently launching an offensive against Qala Diza," some 70 kilometres north of Sulaimaniyeh, said a Western humanitarian aid official. He added that some PUK fighters had already left Qala Diza and were heading towards the Iranian border. U.N. officials said 65 families fled Sulaimaniyeh overnight towards the border fearing the fall of the town to the KDP. The KDP was attacking the PUK on three fronts — around Ranya and Qala Diza at Chuman to the

Masood-Dostum forces seize Bagram airfield, key town

BAGRAM AIRFIELD (Agencies) — Government forces backed by the artillery of Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum captured Bagram military airfield north of the Afghan capital Kabul overnight, witnesses said on Saturday. They also seized two other important objectives: the nearby Bagram junction and the town of Qara Bagh. Reporters who travelled to the scene of the attacks, about 60 kilometres north of the capital, found Taleban forces that held the positions on Friday had retreated. Tanks and troops loyal to government commander Ahmad Shah Masood were in firm control of all three locations. Taleban jets bombed Bagram at about 9 a.m. local time on Saturday with one civilian reported killed. An Antonov cargo plane which flew over Jabal-os-Saraj, north of Bagram, about three hours later drew blistering anti-aircraft fire from the government side. Hundreds of Mr. Masood's fighters laden with Kalashnikovs, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and extra ammunition strolled along the main road inside the airbase on Saturday, smiling and shouting greetings to comrades arriving by the truckload. Government tanks spewing thick black exhaust clanked into new positions around the perimeter of the base, which looked more like an aircraft disassembly line than the powerful military airfield it once was during the heyday of the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan. About 15 dilapidated fighter aircraft, transport planes and helicopter carcasses of Soviet style and vintage, were parked along the taxiways near the hangars or on the grass infields — all well past their sell-by date. The airfield buildings were decrepit and rusted, with bullet-riddled metal facades and shattered windows — most seemingly from ancient battles rather than recent fighting. Out along the main runway, which sits in a plain surrounded by snow-capped mountains, at least eight jet fighters sat flanked by blast barriers, in position, if not in condition, to fly. Government troops said Taleban militiamen had

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Kremlin hopes for calm as Lebed eyes governor's post to stage a comeback

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Kremlin hoped for stability by sacking tough-talking security chief Alexander Lebed, but he could still make waves, especially by becoming a regional governor, analysts said Saturday. The Kremlin managed to get rid of the unpredictable and ambitious Lebed at a highly sensitive time — just weeks before President Boris Yeltsin's planned heart bypass surgery. On Saturday, Mr. Yeltsin named the former Russian parliament speaker, Ivan Rybkin, to replace Mr. Lebed both as secretary of the powerful Kremlin security council and chief negotiator in Chechnya. The purge continued Friday with the replacement of the armed forces chief of staff in what was seen as a pay-back to Defence Minister Igor Rodionov for his decision not to back Mr. Lebed, a former ally. The new chief of staff, General Viktor Samsonov, is close to Rodionov. An

additional seven army generals, including the top two paratrooper commanders, who were close to Mr. Lebed, have already been fired this month. Coming out on top from the turmoil were Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Mr. Yeltsin's Chief of Staff Anatoly Chubais. Mr. Chernomyrdin and Mr. Chubais "have already proved they can run just about everything in a relatively stable way, like the two hands of the president," Sevodnya newspaper wrote. "They can find a form of mutually advantageous cooperation." But while the Kremlin hoped to end the political chaos around Mr. Yeltsin's sick bed, Mr. Lebed made it clear his bid for the presidency was not over. The tough ex-paratrooper general looked more like a presidential candidate than a sacked Kremlin official when he received an ova-

tion Friday night on entering a Moscow theatre for a production of Ivan the Terrible. Mr. Lebed's best chance to launch a comeback could be by contesting the governor's seat in his home region of Tula, which is 200 kilometres south of the capital and concentrated around defence industry. Komsomolskaya Pravda daily newspaper reported that one of the ex-general's political support groups, Civil Solidarity, had already asked him to enter the race, expected in December. Mr. Lebed was briefly a deputy from Tula to the lower house of parliament, the State Duma, before entering the Kremlin in June. He also commanded the local paratrooper division from 1988 to 1991. Being governor of Tula would give him a seat in the upper house of parliament, the Federation Council, a budget, access to the media and a way to begin building a political base. Mr. Lebed would have a chance to "return in honour to Moscow." He could then wait for 2000 in maximum comfort and permanently in front of the media. Moskovsky Komsomolets daily said. If he did enter and win the race, it would be a slap in the face for Mr. Yeltsin — the incumbent. Nikolai Sevruigin, was appointed in 1992 by the president. Other reports have suggested Mr. Lebed could try to regain his Duma seat, which is still empty and will be up for election in December. But Mr. Lebed has major organisational problems. His sacking from the post of secretary of the Kremlin security council meant he lost a series of perks and above all an opening to the media. Mr. Yeltsin's team showed how effectively it could manipulate the media

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Chirac begins Mideast visit seeking to boost European role in peace process

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — French President Jacques Chirac arrived in Syria on Saturday on a tour of the region in a determined bid to strengthen, even reinvent, the French role in Middle East politics. Early signs, however, do not show it is going to be an easy task. President Chirac, who was scheduled to meet Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during his stay in Syria, is expected to launch what has come to be known as the "new French Arab policy." (Chirac gets hero's welcome, page 12) "This comprehensive visit is aimed at bringing a mes-

sage of peace to the region," says Bernard Bajolet, the French ambassador in Amman. "But (it is) not just any peace (that we want). France wishes to see that balance is restored to the Middle East peace process." France and Europe in general have been recently pushing for and insisting on having an effective role in this process, which has witnessed more downs than ups in recent months. The challenge before them has been mainly how to transform and expand financial and economic support for countries of the region into real political clout. But Israel, especially under the leadership of the

new right-wing government, has resisted attempts to strengthen the Europeans' hand in the region. The Israelis have publicly expressed dissatisfaction over recent political initiatives by Paris and other European Union (EU) capitals and showed a clear lack of desire to see a greater involvement by any other than the main peace broker — the U.S. France, on the other hand, has stuck to its guns, insisting at one point on its intention to send Foreign Minister Herve de Charette on an official visit to the Orient House in Arab East Jerusalem during the presidential tour in Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas. But Israel strongly objected to the visit, which would have recognised Palestinian rights in Jerusalem, and that objection was made during the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to France on Sept 25. The Israeli opposition to the Jerusalem move, however, did not dissuade the French from deciding to send another envoy, the minister of health, to the Orient House. Mr. De Charette will stay in Egypt during President Chirac's stay in Israel, and he will then re-join the president on his tour in the Arab countries that will also include Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt.

"French moves could not be considered as an appeal. They are a reflection of the aspirations and demands of the countries of the region," Ambassador Bajolet insisted. In comments to the Jordan Times, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan expressed the Kingdom's readiness to accept a greater political role for Europe in the Middle East. The Crown Prince said that while Jordan highly welcomed and supported "Europe in its endeavours for a more effective political role, the nature of that effort could not be defined at present since there are many sensitivities, American in particular."

The new drive by France and the EU is certainly not appreciated by Washington. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was quoted recently as saying that European activities in the Middle East should be limited to financial support only. Ambassador Bajolet, however, said that France was not content to play such supporting role, "especially at a time when aid by the U.S. to the region has diminished considerably." "Our desire to launch a new political campaign in the region does not mean that we want to rule out the American role," he said. "The American role, as is

well-known, is necessary, but it is an isolatory one." In any case, President Chirac, whose government's policies at home have drawn public discontent, is pursuing a strong foreign policy following in the footsteps of the late General Charles de Gaulle. Although Europe might not have appreciated French initiatives at the outset it seems that the European position has now grown to be more coherent, especially after Mr. Chirac's frequent consultations with Germany and Italy. Observers believe that the driving force behind France's change of heart is

(Continued on page 7)

Taleban close down women's bathhouses for being 'un-Islamic'

KABUL (AFP) — Kabul's new fundamentalist Taleban rulers have shut down the city's usually bustling women's bath houses, branding them an "un-Islamic institution," local residents said Saturday.

The Taleban-controlled Kabul municipality last week sent a letter to the city's 32 public baths reserved for women, ordering them to close their doors with immediate effect, a bath house owner told AFP.

"We were told in the letter to close down because women going to public baths is un-Islamic as far as the Taleban are concerned," Mohammad Hassan said.

"One bath was fined 500,000 afghanis (\$31) by the Taleban two days ago for violating the order and opening its doors to women," he said.

No Taleban official was immediately available for comment on the closure or on why the baths are deemed to be un-Islamic, but locals said the baths were probably frowned upon because it invited women to wander the city "unescorted and unnecessarily."

Other sources, however, said that a handful of women's communal baths in west Kabul had flouted the order, which came as the first signs of winter began to take their grip on the battered Afghan capital.

The order to shut down the baths, a feature of every day life for most residents of Kabul which had been deprived of running water and electricity for more than three years, has outraged women here.

"I don't know how I'm

going to be able to wash myself and have a warm bath now in the absence of electricity and running water in my house," a 50-year-old woman who refused to be identified said. "I'm very angry because the Taleban have deprived us of an essential facility which we have always used and used to enjoy as well," she added.

The traditional baths — or hamams — which cost users about six cents for a steam bath have almost completely replaced private bathing facilities in Kabul, where most public amenities have been destroyed or suspended during more than four years of civil war.

The baths are mostly used in winter when temperatures in the city can plummet to below minus 20 degrees Celsius and when it is too cold for kabulis — who battle to feed themselves, let alone heat their homes — to bathe at home with water brought from freezing wells.

Scores of ancient hamams — most of which have two distinct sections with separate entrances for men and women — are dotted across the city and its sprawling suburbs, inhabited by about 1.2 million people.

The baths — common to Central Asia — are also used as communal meeting places for relaxation and gossip, especially for women who generally enjoy little leisure time between working and caring for their families, locals said.

In the past, mothers are said to have used hamams as a hunting ground for prospective brides for their sons who did not have the

opportunity to gauge the beauty of women for themselves as females were covered from head to foot in public under Islamic law.

The order shutting women's baths is the latest in a line of decrees restricting women's behaviour to be issued by the Taleban since they overran Kabul three weeks ago.

Females, who have for decades been allowed to work and be educated in the capital and other major Afghan cities, were barred from offices and school by the Islamic fighters after they seized power here.

In addition, they have been ordered not to go out "unnecessarily" and have been warned to be fully covered by traditional Islamic dress if they have to venture out.

The new regulations represent a serious blow to thousands of Kabulis, as more than 30,000 widows are the only income earners in their usually very large families. Most of the Afghan civil service here was run by women, while scores of foreign aid agencies also depend on women to keep key humanitarian projects operating.

The United Nations has warned the Taleban that foreign aid to Afghanistan could be halted if they fail to alter their stance on women, while the European Union has urged the world community to deny the new Kabul leadership much-needed recognition on the same grounds.

The fundamentalist Taleban took control of the once relatively liberal city on Sept. 27 after the government of deposed President Burhanuddin Rabbani fled the city.



Afghan travellers wait at a checkpoint outside the Afghan capital as they are not allowed to leave Kabul to travel north of the country (Reuters photo)

Lebanon holds man with forbidden fruit

RASHAYA (AP) — A man in a pick-up truck full of Israeli mangoes was arrested by Lebanese customs agents while driving in South Lebanon, security sources said Friday.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the agents, working on a tip, arrested the man Thursday evening at a Lebanese army checkpoint near a barren strip of land north of Israel's self-styled "security zone."

The man, a regular driver of goods in and out of the security zone, was handed over along with nearly a tonne of the forbidden mangoes to the prosecutor general's office in the Bekaa Valley. The laws of Lebanon, which is at war with Israel, bar any dealing with the enemy — trade or military. Violation is punishable by prison or death.

GCC chief prepares for Doha summit

DUBAI (R) — The head of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) left for Doha on Saturday on a regional tour to prepare for a Gulf Arab summit that will be held amid border rows and political differences within the alliance.

GCC Secretary-General Jameel Hujailan will also visit Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait officials in the 16-year-old Riyadh-based group told Reuters in Dubai by telephone.

Although no date has been set, diplomats expect the summit to be held in

Doha on Dec. 22-24.

"Mr. Hujailan is preparing for the summit in December and for a meeting of the GCC foreign ministers in Riyadh on Oct. 27," he said.

He visited Bahrain on Monday in an apparent attempt to convince the emirate's ruler to attend the summit, diplomats said.

Bahrain and Qatar are locked in a territorial dispute over a cluster of barren reefs and islands which are potentially rich in oil and gas. They include Hawar Islands, which have been controlled by Bahrain since

the 1930s.

Bahrain has threatened to boycott the summit to protest against Qatar's failure to withdraw a case it has taken to the International Court of Justice to settle the dispute.

Qatar said it would only withdraw the case from the World Court in the Hague if Saudi Arabian mediation succeeded in settling the long-standing row.

Qatar asked the court in 1991 to settle the problem. The court decided in January it had jurisdiction and is expected to produce a verdict by the end of this year.

Bombs kill 7, wound 26 in Algeria

PARIS (R) — Two bombs have killed seven people and wounded 26 in the Algerian region of Blida, 50 kilometres south of the capital Algiers, an Algerian newspaper reported on Saturday.

One bomb, planted under a van in a shopping area in the garrison town of Blida, went off on Thursday, killing four people and wounding 16, Liberte newspaper said. The blast also damaged several shops in the Bab Essebt trading district.

A second bomb, planted under a railway line linking Blida and the neighbouring town of Boufarik, was detonated by guerrillas on Wednesday, killing three people and wounding 10, Liberte said.

The attacks were the latest in a series of bombings the Algerian authorities blame on guerrillas since early 1992.

More than 1,400 civilians have been killed in the bombing campaign in the past two years, according to a report released last month by a government-appointed human rights watchdog, the National Observatory of Human Rights.

An estimated 50,000 people have died in Algeria's violence between rebels and the government since January 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Mauritania opposition wins first assembly seat

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — A new party championing the rights of Mauritania's blacks and ex-slaves or their descendants won the opposition's first seat in the national assembly after an election run-off.

The radical Action for Change, which represents in particular the former slave class of the Haratines, took the Sabkha district of Nouakchott in the second round of the general elections.

In five other results declared late Friday the ruling Social Democratic Republican Party (PRDS) won two seats in Nouakchott and two in the economic capital of Nouadhibou, adding to the 61 it took outright in the first round, but was heavily

defeated in another Nouakchott constituency by an independent.

Results of the voting for 10 more seats in the south of the country were expected late Saturday.

In the first round the PRDS lost only two seats, one to an independent and the other to a political ally, giving President Maouya Sidatmad Ould Taya a solid base ahead of presidential elections due in January 1998.

The opposition, which boycotted the country's first multi-party elections in 1992, alleged fraud by the PRDS, but international observers said there had been great progress towards democracy, though they urged a revision of electors' lists.

The first round was the first truly multi-party legislative election in the former French colony straddling Arab and black Africa.

Veteran opposition stalwart Ahmed Ould Daddah's Union of Democratic Forces-New Era Party, which alleged massive fraud in last week's first round, passed up the chance of winning two seats in Nouakchott by boycotting the second round. The ruling party took both.

Action for Change, formed just over a year ago and led by former slave Messoud Ould Boulkheir, had the backing of Mr. Ould Daddah's party and the moderate Union for Democracy and Progress. Witnesses described turnout in the capital as low.

Mauritania, a country of 2.2 million people, stands at the Atlantic fringe of the Sahara desert.

Light-skinned Moors of Arab stock and blacks each make up a third of the population. Arabic-speaking ex-slaves or Haratins remain the remainder. Mauritania formally banned slavery in 1980.

International observers spoke of "imperfections" in the first round, in which the opposition had been hoping to make its mark ahead of a presidential election due by January 1998.

Independents, many of them ruling party supporters, denied the party ticket, contested nine seats on Friday and won at least one.

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Culture Minister Farouk Hosni said in an interview published on Saturday that Egypt would not forge cultural ties with Israel unless there is peace in the region. "Egypt is committed to peace as a strategic option but there is a right time for everything. As the person responsible for cultural aspects, I say that this is not the right time to normalise cultural ties (with Israel)," Mr. Hosni told the Arabic

language daily Al Hayat.

"There is normalisation in economic, touristic and trade ties, which is why the Israelis are insisting, that there is normalisation in the field of culture. I think this is the last card we can play and the time hasn't come yet for us to give it up," he added.

Arab states warned at a June summit in Cairo they might reconsider normalising ties with Israel unless it makes progress in peace

talks with the Palestinians.

Since his election in May, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has angered Arabs by ruling out the return of occupied Arab lands and not implementing pledges signed by the former Labour government with the Palestinians.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he would not meet Mr. Netanyahu unless Israel honoured an agreement to withdraw troops from most of the West Bank

town of Hebron. Mr. Hosni said he will follow his president's lead and not visit the Jewish state nor host any officials.

"I have been invited to Israel but I refused the invitation. Everybody knows that I do not invite Israelis and that I never have... This will not happen except in the framework of a complete peace in the Middle East," he added.

Amnesty appeals to Israeli doctors over torture of Palestinians

PARIS (AFP) — Human rights body Amnesty International has launched a campaign aimed at Israeli doctors, describing their role in supervising the torture of Palestinian prisoners as a "serious perversion of medical ethics."

In a statement Friday to AFP, Amnesty's medical committee said it was "very concerned" that medical supervision of interrogations carried out by officers of

Israel's Shin Bet national security services was becoming firmly established.

Shin Bet interrogations take place within a medical and statutory framework which allows "moderate physical pressure" to a degree defined by secret Shin Bet directives, Amnesty said.

According to the Amnesty statement, before undergoing torture prisoners are given a medical examination which determines their "ability to

undergo" the punishment and "makes recommendations concerning treatment."

It added that doctors enter the torture rooms themselves to administer treatment following punishments.

The statement said that "the medical guarantee given to this bad treatment appears to be a serious perversion of medical ethics, (which entail an) obligation to care for people's health, even prisoners."

Doctors cannot be unaware that what is going on is torture, or that their presence before, during and after interrogations gives them a responsibility," the statement said.

It added that the International Committee of the Red Cross declared in 1992 that the "moderate pressure" inflicted by Israeli security service officers was in violation of the Geneva Convention.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:05.....Fevens American Tails
14:30.....You Bet Your Life
15:00.....French Programmes
16:00.....Worldnet
16:30.....The Famous Five (Drama)
17:00.....News Flash
17:02 Doc. — Our World Their World
17:15.....Search and Rescue
18:00.....French Programme
19:30.....News Headlines
19:35.....Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
20:01.....Auto-Classics
20:30.....Album Show
21:10.....Blackie's Magic
20:00.....News in English
22:30.....Madson
23:15.....Miami Vice
23:59.....Yes, Minister

PRAYER TIMES

04:20.....Fajr
05:37.....(Sunrise) Duha
11:21.....Dhuhr
14:33.....'Asr
17:04.....Maghreb
20:21.....Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 773111-19

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church
Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.
Church of Nazarene Tel.
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology.
Temperatures are expected to be
slightly above average with winds
southeasterly moderate to active.
In Agaba, it will be relatively hot
and occasionally dusty, winds
northerly moderate to active and
seas calm.

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.

Min/Max. temp.
Amman.....14/29
Agaba.....22/36

Deserts.....12/31

Jordan Valley.....22/35

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30, Agaba 36 Humidity
readings: Amman 22 per cent.
Agaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Issam Al Asmar.....890504
Dr. Nidal Al As'ad.....751672
Dr. Khalidoun Kloub.....886715
Dr. Osama Al Hussein.....847285

Dr. Hafez Salifit.....914144
Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111
Civil Defence Department.....661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue
630341

Civil Defence Emergency.....199

Rescue Police.....192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade.....617101
Blood Bank.....775121

Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....630321

Hotel Complaints.....605800
Price Complaints.....661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints.....897467

Amman Municipality Complaints
787111
Telephone Information (directory
assistance).....121
Overseas Calls.....010230

Central Amman Telephone
Repairs.....623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101

Jordan Television.....773111
Radio Jordan.....774111
Water Authority.....680100

J. Electricity Authority.....815615
Electric Power Co.....636381
RJ Flight Information.....08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre.....813813/32
Khalidi Maternity.....642811/6

Akileh Maternity.....642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity.....642362
Malhas, J. Amman.....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani.....607071
Shmeisani Hospital.....669131
University Hospital.....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital.....667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali.....666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali.....664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen.....777101/3
Al-Bashir.....775111/26

Army, Marka.....891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital.....60240/50
Amal Hospital.....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and
Special Surgery.....865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital.....09/983323

Zarqa National Hospital.....09/900560
Al Hikma Modern Hospital.....09/990990

IBRID:
Princess Basma Hospital.....02/275555
Greek Catholic Hospital.....02/272275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital.....02/247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital.....03/314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
department at the Queen Alia
International Airport Tel.
08153200-5 where it should
always be verified. Information on
other flights can be supplied on

phone 08 (52700)

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:55.....Lamaca (RJ)
09:05.....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:10.....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:20.....Beirut (RJ)
09:50.....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00.....Jeddah, Agaba (RJ)
15:05.....New York (RJ)
17:50.....London (RJ)
18:15.....Athens (RJ)
18:20.....Paris, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30.....Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:25.....Rome (RJ)
19:30.....Tunis (RJ)
19:40.....Vienna (RJ)
20:30.....Frankfurt (RJ)
23:45.....Agaba (add) (RJ)
00:10.....Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights
04:45.....Tel Aviv (LY)
11:30.....Doha (Q7)
12:40.....Bahrain (GF)
13:30.....Moscow (SU)
15:30.....Dubai (EK)
19:35.....Cairo (MS)
20:10.....Beirut (ME)
21:15.....London, Beirut (BA)
22:20.....Istanbul (TK)
22:30.....Athens (OA)
23:20.....Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)
01:30.....Belgrade (GU)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:50.....Agaba (RW)

19:45.....Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:35.....Beirut (RJ)
08:30.....Agaba, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00.....Vienna (RJ)
11:00.....Tunis (RJ)
11:15.....Rome (RJ)
11:30.....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:20.....Athens (RJ)
12:25.....London (RJ)
20:10.....Cairo (RJ)
20:20.....New Delhi (RJ)
20:20.....Jeddah (RJ)
20:20.....New Delhi (RJ)
20:45.....Damascus (RJ)
21:00.....Agaba (add) (RJ)
21:20.....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:45.....Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
22:30.....Bangkok (RJ)
22:45.....Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights
05:40.....London (KJ)
06:30.....Tel Aviv (LY)
07:45.....Beirut (ME)
08:15.....London (BA)
12:30.....Istanbul, Athens (Q7)
13:30.....Doha (GF)
15:05.....Moscow (SU)
16:30.....Dubai (EK)
20:25.....Cairo (MS)
23:20.....Riyadh (add) (SV)
01:30.....Amsterdam (KL)
02:30.....Belgrade (GU)
03:00.....Athens (OA)

05:00.....Istanbul (TK)
05:45.....Beirut, London (BA)

HILAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman.....8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus.....5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus.....7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman.....5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple.....700/500
Banana.....500/500
Banana (mukhammar).....420/420
Banana (imported).....840/620
Cabbage.....130/80
Carrot.....280/150
Cauliflower.....340/220
Cucumber (large).....180/100
Cucumber (small).....350/200
Eggplant.....250/140
Garlic.....700/450
Grapes.....480/150
Guava.....600/400
Lemon.....360/200
Marrow (large).....240/200
Marrow (small).....380/250
Mulukiah.....220/110
Onion (green).....300/180
Onion (dry).....140/80
Okra.....950/550
Olive.....580/450
Pear.....650/550
Pepper (hot).....340/200
Pepper (sweet).....360/220
Pomegranate.....350/200
Potato.....280/180
Spinach.....330/200
String Bean.....600/400
Tomato.....240/160

Home News

Bombs kill 7, wound 26 in Algeria

PARIS (R) — Two bombs have killed seven people and wounded 26 in the Algerian region of Blida, 50 kilometres south of the capital Algiers, an Algerian newspaper reported on Saturday.

One bomb, planted under a van in a shopping area, went off on Thursday, killing four people and wounding 16. The newspaper said. The second bomb exploded in a shopping area in the Bab El Bhar district.

A second bomb, planted under a van in the town of Blida and the neighbouring town of Boufarik, was exploded by guerrillas Wednesday, killing four people and wounding 10.

The attacks were the latest in a series of bombings in the Algerian suburbs, mainly in the guerrilla-controlled areas.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in the continuing campaign in the past year, according to reports released by the Algerian government.

The government has appealed human rights organisations to help in the investigation of the bombings.

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JORDAN OFFERS MEDICAL AID TO PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY: Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Omar Khatib received Saturday from the Ministry of Health Secretary General Hashem Jaddoua a shipment of 20 tonnes of medical aid to Palestinians. Mr. Khatib said that the shipment was the second of its kind (Petra photo)

Doctors, ministry come to understanding, avert strike; allowances to increase

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health and the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) Saturday concluded an agreement regarding additional allowances on various medical professional's salaries. These include physicians, dentists, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and veterinarians employed by the public sector.

The agreement came in the form of a memorandum of understanding signed by Health Minister Aref Bataineh and the JMA board, thus averting a projected sit-in and subsequent open strike in support of demands for higher salaries and better working conditions.

A statement following the meeting between the two sides and attended by Minister of Administrative Development Kamal Nassar said the memorandum provides for raising the overtime allowance granted to physicians and dentists from 30 to 60 per cent on the basic salary as a first measure to be followed by other steps.

The memorandum also called for increases in nurses', midwives', pharmacists', and veterinarians' overtime allowances. The memorandum of understanding also provides for the amendment of the unified allowances system and that of the Civil Service Commission as soon as possible to include the agreed on allowances.

Speaking at the meeting Dr. Bataineh stressed that the government appreciates the efforts of the medical staff in public hospitals and health centres and understands their requests and demands.

At the same time, he said, this sector fully empathises with economic conditions in Jordan and has cooperated with the government to bring the dispute to an end, adding that the agreement concluded Saturday will be submitted to the Council of Ministers very soon for approval.

Police officers killed in road collision

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four police officers were killed Friday in Ashqof near the Jordanian-Iraqi border, Civil Defence Department (CDD) and police reports stated.

The 2:00 p.m. accident involved a trailer and military jeep carrying the four officers and heading toward the village of Safawi, a police official said.

The official said the front tyre of the military vehicle blew up, causing the driver to lose control of his vehicle and collide head-on with an oncoming trailer, which the official said was speeding.

"The impact caused the instant death of all four men," the official told the Jordan Times.

The deceased were identified as Second Lieutenant Othman Asmar, 26, Corporals Atef Miffeh Rakad, 31, Nouredin Bader, 19, and Farhan Elian Rakad, 23.

"The men had just finished their duty and were heading home for a short vacation with their families," the official said.

The driver of the trailer, Sa'ed Hamid, 29, an Iraqi national, escaped the collision with no injuries.

In February 1995, five police officers riding a military bus heading to their jobs from Irbid to Mafrak were killed at the Irbid-Mafrak road near Muthalath Al Wakir after being hit by a trailer carrying cement.

Last year 469 people were killed on the Kingdom's roads in 28,970 reported road accidents, which resulted in more than 13,000 injuries.

Losses amount to JD1.5 million in factory fire

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

SAHAB — The owner of an East Amman textile factory, gutted by fire Friday night, said his losses amounted to JD1.5 million and that the origin of the fire was still unknown.

The fire, which broke out at 8:00 p.m. Friday, engulfed the 4,450 square metre East River International Manufacturers factory located at the Sahab Industrial City.

Officials at the scene said it was too early to speculate the cause of the fire, adding that an investigation committee has been formed.

But one witness who was

present when the fire broke out Friday, said he saw sparks flashing from the top of the factory.

"I saw some sparks and lights and minutes later the entire factory was on fire," the witness said.

More than 130 Civil Defence Department (CDD) fire-fighters and 40 fire engines were called to help extinguish the blaze in four hours. No casualties were reported, CDD officials said.

CDD fire-fighters alternated shifts and were able to bring the fire under control and prevent it from spreading into neighbouring buildings Saturday evening.

"The factory contained fast burning material which included polyester and other fabric," a CDD official told the Jordan Times. He added that an attic in the factory collapsed because of the heat, and fell on burning clothes and polyester which quickly turned to embers.

"The attic hindered our operation, and that is why we stayed the entire night attempting to extinguish the still burning embers, trapped under the collapsed attic," he added.

According to the factory owner, Nassim Ramonieh, the factory which manufactured rugs, quilts and bed sheet, was insured for up to

JD913,000.

"We have never had an accidents or incidents in the past and I do not believe that the fire was set intentionally," Mr. Ramonieh told the Jordan Times.

The factory employs 110 workers and 90 per cent of its products are exported to the U.S., Panama and Yemen.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti along with the minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Majali and Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar supervised the fire-fighting operations.

Upgrade of ministry data system announced

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Saturday concluded an agreement with the Ministry of Finance regarding the development and upgrade of a database system.

This system is slated to collate matters connected with beneficiaries of a direct government subsidy on wheat and animal feed.

The agreement, signed by RSS President Hani Mulki and Ministry of Finance Secretary General Suleiman Hafez, provides for the RSS to conduct detailed studies related to the planned database in addition to preparing programmes for feeding and retrieving information and training computer operators on procedures concerning the distribution of the subsidy and the number of beneficiaries.

In remarks following the signing, Dr. Mulki said that the agreement constitutes an essential step towards the possible creation of a social security and statistical system in Jordan.

adding that the RSS earlier established database systems for the Social Security Corporation, the Income Tax Department, and the Civil Service and Passport Departments.

He said that the database will enable the government to acquire information about all the country's beneficiaries and will facilitate people entitled to subsidy to receive it.

Direct cash subsidy for bread and animal feed was offered to citizens as of Sept. 1 this year, replacing the indirect government subsidy for the two commodities in a bid to curtail excessive consumption and smuggling, according to government statements in August.

Mr. Hafez said that the ministry, which is undertaking the cash subsidy distribution will benefit from the database in six months. This time, the RSS stated, is necessary to develop the network.

Ratification of death sentence approved

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Court of Cassation last week ratified a ruling by the Amman Criminal Court to execute a 29-year-old for the murder of a man in Salt in August 1995, according to judicial sources.

Kayed Ahmad was sentenced to death on July 25 by the Criminal Court after he was found guilty of robbing, killing and mutilating Mahmoud Ensour, 32, in his house in Salt on Aug. 14.

According to the prosecution, Mr. Ahmad claimed to have been helping Mr. Ensour obtain a taxi licence but actually defrauded him for JD700. In his confession to police, the convict said he "had to kill him because the victim kept asking for his money."

On the morning of Aug. 14, Mr. Ahmad asked Mr. Ensour to meet him at his house to finish the necessary papers. He, then jumped at Mr. Ensour, strangled him with a rope, stole JD2,000 and some documents, the charge sheet said.

It added that the convict then borrowed a saw from his neighbour, cut the man's body into pieces, placed it in boxes and distributed it in several areas in Salt.

In his court confession in April, Ahmad said that he "did not intend to kill him, but rather to stop a quarrel." "I was frightened since he died in my house, so the only solution was to cut him up into pieces," Ahmad told the court at the time.

According to the judicial source, the case will be transferred to the Chief

Attorney General, then the Ministry of Justice, the Prime Minister and finally His Majesty King Hussein for endorsement of the verdicts.

Seven people have been put to death so far this year. Meanwhile, pathologist Abdul Karim Qassem, who examined the body of a physician found murdered at her apartment in Tlaa' Al Ali, Thursday and testified that the woman was, indeed, strangled.

The victim, Iman Yassin, 26, was found murdered in her apartment. A 24-year-old man, Abdul Fatah Mustafa, who was working in building maintenance and as a guard, is the chief suspect in the woman's death.

According to the prosecution charge sheet, on the night of Aug. 11, the defendant consumed alcohol,

broke into Dr. Yassin's apartment and attempted to rape her.

A struggle ensued in which the woman's head struck a radiator, supposedly the cause of her instant demise, according to the prosecution charge sheet.

But Dr. Qassem, testifying for the prosecution explained to the court that the main cause of death was strangulation.

"The strangulation was additional to the blow the victim received to her head, but [it was the] real cause of death - pressure by two hands on her neck," the forensic expert told the court.

Presiding Judge Abdul Rahman Tawfiq postponed the case for Oct. 24 to start hearing the defence witnesses in the case.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

- Concert by Trio Thierry Robin at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of children's books at Haya Centre, until Oct. 29.
- Works by Syrian artist Abdul Latif Simandi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens St. (Tel. 687598), until Oct. 30.
- Exhibition entitled "Jerusalem Domes, Doors and Windows" comprising photos by Julia Reinhold and paintings by Rifham Ghassib at the Gallery, InterContinental Hotel, until Oct. 31.
- Abstract (plastic) art exhibition by Nabil Shehadeh at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displaying works of contemporary Arab artists, until Nov. 13.
- Exhibition by Agence France Presse (AFP) photos on "Grapes of Wrath" operations in Lebanon at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, until Oct. 20.
- "Wadi Al Faynan Art Exhibition" — works of several artists inspired by Wadi Faynan at Balka Art Gallery, Fuheis, until Oct. 31.
- Works by Ghassan Abu Lehan at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Oct. 23.
- Works by Ghada Dahdaleh at the French Cultural Centre, until Oct. 29.

Pharmaceutical firms debate urgency of signing patent accord

By Maria Bizri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the date for Jordan's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) nears, the Kingdom's third largest exporting industry, the pharmaceuticals industry, is pleading for more time against insistence by its multinational counterparts that the country eminently comply with the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights Agreement (TRIPS).

The local industry says it must be given time to adjust to the WTO regulations or suffer complete collapse. But international pharmaceutical firms, especially the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhARMA), say Jordan does not provide meaningful protection for pharmaceuticals, and thus inhibits the development of its drug industry which will "remain characterised by imitation."

In an interview with the Jordan Times, PHARMA Vice President Thomas Bombelles said economic systems all over the world are being restructured to integrate with the new global economy. These reforms, he said, include not only tax systems, and investment laws, but also measures which would allow countries to compete in an open market ruled by patent and copyright laws.

Mr. Bombelles argued that implementation of such laws would create an atmosphere conducive to international competitiveness, ultimately stimulating local markets/industries to raise their standards and generate wealth in their societies.

Jordan and Egypt, he said, have the medical and technical expertise that would permit them to further develop in the field of pharmaceuticals. Yet, he says, they need to improve their research and development (R&D) skills in order for their pharmaceutical industries to grow. Such growth, he added, needs to be nurtured with the proper laws.

Jordanian pharmaceutical manufacturers, on the other hand, believe that Jordanian negotiators need to aim at obtaining short and long-term benefits for the local industry, especially since, according to the Central Bank of Jordan, it accounts for 10 per cent of the Kingdom's annual exports.

Tamam Ghoul, head of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations bureau at the Ministry

of Industry and Trade, in an interview with the Jordan Times, said that the ministry is forming committees with representatives from the private sector to negotiate the best deals possible. Ms. Ghoul said that the private sector is becoming more involved in the dialogue, and that the "government is working hand in hand with the private sector."

The GATT, she added, allows an initial five-year grace period for developing countries before its implementation, a period that may be extended by another five years or more for those who do not have patent laws.

"We have to secure our interests," by taking advantage of the concessions "that international regulations give us," Ms. Ghoul said.

Muhammad Sabbagh, a pharmacist and general manager of Sabbagh Drugstore, insisted that the application of patent laws is complicated and that the interests of all parties involved should be considered.

Mr. Sabbagh said he recognised the legitimacy of the multi-national firms' concern and pointed to what he saw as the benefits they would bring to the local market through the upgrading of standards and the sponsoring of training programmes.

Responding to the question of price-hikes when TRIPS is implemented, Mr. Bombelles said the application of patent laws will not lead to an increase in the prices of medicine in the local market because first, multinational firms have no incentive in pricing their products or products that are produced under licence above the level of affordability of the local population. And second, the Ministry of Health controls the pricing process.

"It is very important to understand," Mr. Bombelles continued, "that when talking about patents we are only talking about new medicines, and that the number of new medicines that are produced worldwide every year does not exceed 25-30, with a patent life of 10 years. Thus, it means that only those would be protected compared to an almost equal number of medicines whose patent life expires at the same time."

"As a result, pharmaceutical companies could easily, without infringing on any patent laws, produce medicines that are no longer patented, which equalises the net effect on prices to zero or almost zero."

Director of the Drug Control Department at the Ministry of Health Maysa'a Saket said it is true that the ministry

controls the pricing of medicine, but the local market will most definitely be affected when TRIPS is implemented.

According to Ms. Saket, the multinationals will not have sufficient incentive to invest in Jordan unless the ministry itself enforces a higher pricing scale on drugs.

Mr. Sabbagh, also, stressed that the interest of the local consumer should be considered, "Jordanians," he said, "need medicines at affordable prices. And that means that change towards patent production must be carefully studied and gradual."

Jordanian policy makers, Mr. Sabbagh added, need not submit to the pressure of the multinationals. Rather, they should work with the local industries to ensure the interests of the Jordanian consumer.

According to Mr. Bombelles, "the reality of the industry is such that the financing of R&D only comes from private companies which take the returns from today's medicine to sponsor tomorrow's."

If patents are infringed upon, these companies would simply not be able to function, he said.

The economics of piracy, Mr. Bombelles claimed, would harm not only innovator companies that register the product but also the pirating companies themselves — "the free riders," — who eventually undersell themselves in the market.

Pharmaceutical companies, which follow such practices, he added, are afraid that a change in the status quo would reduce their profit, a situation that PHARMA is trying to ease by offering co-marketing strategies, licensing and joint ventures.

"Furthermore, when international companies enter the market, they can help the local industry improve its technical capacity as well as sponsor its R&D, a matter that in the long-run would benefit the industry much more than piracy," Mr. Bombelles said.

Accordingly, Mr. Sabbagh noted that the local industries will have to suffer in the beginning, and that the only way to reduce the side effects of patent protection of the latter would be to "not only negotiate a reasonable grace period but also negotiate ways of getting R&D support from the multinationals."

Agreeing with Mr. Sabbagh, Ms. Saket, insisted Jordan will negotiate the grace period necessary to ensure its best interest as well as cooperation with multinationals in terms of R&D assistance, training programmes, and tech-

nical expertise, which would help raise the standards of the local industries.

Commenting on the entry into the U.S. market by Al Hikma, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the Kingdom, Mr. Bombelles said that the product sold by Al Hikma was approved because of its quality. But, he said, this development means that "reciprocity and fairness" are issues that need to be considered. In other words, "since Jordanian pharmaceuticals are allowed to sell in the U.S., the industry should respect international regulations rather than take advantage of them," he said.

Stating that international pharmaceutical companies are not unreasonable, Mr. Bombelles said, they are ready to negotiate a reasonable grace period. "However," he added, "the only way Jordan can move forward is by recognising that certain policy changes are needed."

Said Darwazah, a senior executive at Al Hikma Pharmaceuticals, said that implementing TRIPS in Jordan at its present state of development could be "extremely damaging."

He stressed that Jordan is already moving towards an open-market economy, and unlike other countries in the region which are adopting a protectionist approach, the Kingdom is opening up its markets to competition.

In the long-run, said Mr. Darwazah, Jordan will benefit from patent laws. "However," he continued, "the social and political environment is not yet right to implement TRIPS. Patent laws and copyrights, if implemented today, will make local industries as well as consumers suffer."

Mr. Darwazah stressed that patent laws are "bitter medicine that we have to swallow." Yet, while doing so, the local industries, the policy-makers and the government must secure their rights within the WTO.

The government, he said, has to work with the private sector for the best interest of the people. The best interest of the Jordanian population does not lie in implementing TRIPS today, he stressed.

"We have started a lobby group," said Mr. Darwazah, "one which will help study the articles of GATT as well as TRIPS, in order to reduce the shock of the implementation of these agreements in the short-run."

"Jordan is moving in the right direction," he said, but "too much pressure from the multinationals" will have negative effects.

Northern Ireland Protestant parade staged peacefully

LONDON (R) — A Protestant parade which had raised Northern Ireland tension went off almost without incident Saturday.

Angry Catholic demonstrators protesting at what they called triumphalism booed and jeered and a few bottles were thrown as 200 members of the Protestant Apprentice Boys Order marched around Londonderry's city walls.

But fears of fresh violence erupting in a highly-charged climate after the bombing of Britain's Northern Ireland army base by Catholic-backed IRA guerrillas almost two weeks ago proved unfounded.

Two leaders of the Bogside Residents Association, a staunchly Catholic, Irish nationalist suburb, were manhandled from the walls by police when they refused to stand aside and let the 200 marchers and their pipe band pass.

About 200 of their supporters blocked by police from mounting the walls shouted slogans denouncing Protestant "racism" and hurled abuse at police when Doncha McNallais and Michael Lambert were removed, witnesses said.

As soon as they were bustled down steps from the walls, the Apprentice Boys, a Protestant order which traces its roots to centuries-old Protestant-Catholic wars, marched past in trademark bowler hats and regalia to the beat of a drum.

The march, postponed in August after communal violence swept Northern Ireland in the wake of Protestant Orange Order parades, was over in less than 15 minutes.

The Apprentice Boys leader, Alastair Simpson, told reporters they had gone ahead with the march because of the postponement of the original parade

and had limited numbers to avoid offending Bogside residents who live close to the walls.

"We have proved to the people of the city that this was not a triumphalist march. We were not out to harm anyone or cause offence, we were only here to stand for our civil and religious liberties," he said.

But Mr. MacNallais accused police of trying to dictate the location and scope of the Bogside protest.

"We are Irish nationalists and we have a right to make our feelings known. This was a triumphalist and offensive march," he told reporters after the parade was over.

The path to the holding of the march, which was only given the police go-ahead one hour before it was due to start, was smoothed by John Hume, the area's member of parliament and head of the Irish nationalist

Social Democratic and Labour Party.

He said in a statement Friday night that the march should be allowed, to let representatives of the 60 per cent Protestant majority observe their civil liberties.

The leader of the province's main pro-British Protestant Party, David Trimble, welcomed Mr. Hume's intervention and said the peaceful march was a "sign that things are returning to normal."

Northern Ireland has been on edge since the Irish Republican Army, which is fighting British rule of Northern Ireland, ended a 17-month truce in February and bombed targets in Britain.

The guerrillas killed one soldier and injured 20 in the army base bomb, the first in Northern Ireland since the ceasefire, raising fears of revenge by their pro-British loyalist foes. But they have so far stuck to a two-year truce.

North Korea accuses South, U.S. of stepping up war preparation

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea Saturday accused South Korea of stepping up preparations for war, citing the South's replacement of its defence minister and an annual river-crossing military exercise.

It also criticised Washington over a recent visit to South Korea by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, accusing the United States of aggravating already heightened tension on the Korean peninsula.

Pyeongyang's official Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) said the South's military reshuffle came at a time when the "civilian-veiled warmongers" were "making a fuss" over last month's incursion by a North Korean submarine.

"This reveals their intention to step up war preparations against the North," the

KCNA said.

The two Koreas have been locked in a war of words since the submarine was found beached in the South. In an ensuing manhunt, 22 of the 26 aboard the submarine have been killed or found dead, one captured and three are assumed to be still at large.

President Kim Young-Sam named chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Kim Dong-Jin to replace the outgoing Lee Yang-Ho as defence minister and replaced other top brass Thursday.

The Seoul government said the reshuffle was aimed at improving defence preparedness and bolstering military discipline and morale.

In a separate dispatch, KCNA denounced the South for a joint river-crossing drill Thursday, involving an engineer battalion of

the U.S. army in Seoul.

Helicopters of various types and equipment for crossing were mobilised in the drill.

"Such ceaseless moves reveal that the bellicose elements are hysterically making preparations for war against the northern half of the country," the agency said.

In a third dispatch, KCNA charged that the United States was aggravating the situation on the peninsula over the submarine incident and deploying many more lethal weapons in South Korea and the Far East.

"The United States must be mindful that our people and people's army will never pardon any act of encroaching upon their sovereignty but mete out a thousandfold punishment," it said.

S. Korean politics beset by fresh scandal

SEOUL (R) — South Korea, its image tainted by bribery scandals involving two former presidents, was hit by a fresh scandal Saturday over a former defence minister.

A government official said Saturday president Kim Young-Sam had ordered an investigation into allegations of bribery made against Lee Yang-Ho, who lost his job as defence minister in a sweeping ministry reshuffle Thursday.

"President Kim ordered the prosecution to investigate into the case to find out the truth," an official at the presidential office said Saturday.

The main opposition National Congress for New Politics has accused Mr. Lee of leaking classified military information on a combat helicopter project to an arms dealer in 1995 in return for 150 million won (\$181,000) in bribes.

Mr. Lee could not immediately be reached for comment, but local media reports said he had denied the allegations.

Prosecution officials said the investigation would begin soon. "I can't give any details on the progress, but an investigation will start soon," said one prosecution official.

State KBS Radio said the prosecution had banned Mr. Lee from leaving the country pending the investigation.

Thursday's reshuffle, which also affected the nation's top military brass, was considered linked to the incursion by a North Korean submarine which slipped undetected into southern waters last month.

The latest political scandal to hit South Korea follows President Kim's campaign to "right the wrongs of history" which has led to the arrests of his two immediate predecessors.



Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter waves, as former Secretary of State James Baker (left) talks to an unidentified official after they arrived at Managua Airport Friday. Mr. Carter and Mr. Baker are both in Nicaragua to oversee the Oct. 20 general elections (Reuter photo)

Nicaraguan elections thrust it back on the world stage

MANAGUA (R) — World leaders including former U.S. President Jimmy Carter have descended on Nicaragua to monitor Sunday's presidential elections, a potential milestone in the nation's recovery from a violent, authoritarian past.

The presidential vote pits right-wing Arnoldo Aleman of the Liberal Alliance against former Sandinista President Daniel Ortega, who has sought to shed his Marxist past and emerge as a vote-friendly social democrat.

The most recent Cid Gallup poll gave Mr. Aleman 40.5 per cent of the vote and Ortega 37.9 per cent, followed by 21 lesser candidates. If no candidate gets 45 per cent of the vote, the two top vote-getters face a run-off about a month later.

Mr. Carter leads a group of respected statesmen monitoring the tight race which has been marred by the personal and political animosity between the two leading candidates, each of whom

has sought to paint each other as quasi-dictators.

Ex-Costa Rican President and Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias was due to fly in Saturday. Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Managua Friday, and the Clinton administration sent an observer mission.

Mr. Carter said the United States, which backed an eight-year war by contra rebels against Mr. Ortega's 1979-1990 Sandinista government and has long involved itself in Nicaraguan affairs, would this time be a neutral player.

"There is no doubt that if this election is honest and fair as judged by domestic and international observers, the United States will accept the results," Mr. Carter told a news conference late Friday.

But while the former U.S. president appeared to give his seal of approval to the democratic process in Nicaragua, the Clinton administration has been more guarded about Mr. Ortega's

democratic credentials.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said recently he "would not use the word democrat to describe Daniel Ortega."

"We remember the past," he said.

That past had long thrust Nicaragua, a small country and one of the poorest in the Western hemisphere, into a spot on the world stage disproportionate to its size.

In the 1980s, as a pawn in the cold war battles of the superpowers, it was former U.S. President Ronald Reagan's fixation as the United States sought to prevent a domino effect of Marxism in what was dubbed its own "back yard."

A bloody eight-year civil war between the Soviet-backed Sandinistas and contra rebels followed, in which 25,000 people died and Nicaragua's economy was left in shambles.

In 1990 Violeta Chamorro, the widow of a slain newspaper publisher, campaigning from a wheelchair, ending 11 years of Sandinista rule in a stunning election upset which was seen as a victory for capitalism at the end of the cold war.

Nicaragua's election Sunday is expected to result in a civilian, elected president handing over power to another such leader for the first time in Nicaragua's history.

International interest in Nicaragua's vote has paralleled Mr. Ortega's rise in the polls, as he has transformed himself from a fiery revolutionary in military fatigues into a soft-spoken preacher of reconciliation and forgiveness.

But not everyone buys the "new-look" Ortega, and supporters of his main foe Aleman say his pragmatic conversion may hide a veiled desire to return to hardline rule.

"Don't let yourself be tricked by well-staged propaganda or by false images. Remember there are devils that dress up as angels of light," said Nicaragua's top Catholic cardinal, Miguel Obando Y Bravo, who was a focus for anti-Sandinista opposition in the 1980s.

But many Nicaraguans fear that Mr. Aleman's fierce anti-Sandinista stance as well as talk of bringing back former allies of ex-dictator Anastasio Somoza could lead to post-election conflicts.

11-year-old dies after setting herself ablaze

TOKYO (AFP) — An 11-year-old Japanese girl burned herself to death after being scolded by her mother for untidiness, police said Saturday. The primary school pupil in Numazu, Shizuoka prefecture, poured kerosene over herself and lit a fire with a lighter outside an apartment building near her home Friday evening, police officials said. The girl was already dead when firemen, alerted by a neighbour, arrived at the site, police said. The case is being treated as suicide. The girl, who was living with her parents, grandparents and two siblings, had left home after being scolded for failing to tidy up her things, the officials said, adding that she had apparently taken kerosene from her home. Jiji Press quoted a vice principal at her school saying that she was "a quiet but reliable child." "She was getting along well with her friends, and I heard there was no case of bullying against her," the teacher reportedly said. "I just cannot believe what has happened." According to police, a total of 64 children aged below 13 committed suicide in Japan last year, including eight primary school children of up to 12 years old. The youngest was a 10-year-old boy. Many of the children are believed to have killed themselves over school bullying, which has become a problem in Japan in recent years.

Policeman cleared of \$2 calculator theft

LONDON (R) — A British policeman was acquitted Thursday of stealing a £1.5 (\$2.38) calculator from his own station in a case that cost about £100,000 (\$158,800). Andrew Whitfield, a 30-year-old officer from northern England, said he was only borrowing the calculator he was caught taking by a video camera in February 1995. He has been suspended on full pay from his £21,000 (\$33,340) job in North Yorkshire since the incident. An earlier hearing in February ended in a mistrial. The jury Thursday took just 65 minutes to return a not guilty verdict. Estimates of the cost of trials, lawyers' fees, police investigations and Whitfield's salary have reached six figures.

Former nuclear base to become prison

LONDON (AFP) — A former U.S. nuclear base in England is to become a prison as the Home Office attempts to cope with jail overcrowding, the Independent reported Saturday. The paper said the former U.S. Air Force base at Woodbridge, southern England, would be run by prison governors but guarded by Ministry of Defence Police. The prison population in Britain stands at a record 57,000, the daily noted.

Job seeker goes from cow costume to radio

TORONTO (R) — A Canadian who cannot find full-time work despite having a master's degree in business administration is spending \$960 to advertise on radio for a job. Stuart Weinstein, 30, has taken out 16 radio spots on Toronto A.M. station CFRB. The ads start Monday. His campaign has also included donning a cow costume to hand out copies of his resume in Toronto's financial district. He has worked as a financial analyst, research assistant and government consultant but has never held a permanent full-time job. "I feel confident that there is full-time employment out there and I'm looking diligently to find it," he said.

Officials warn not to rush to judgement on TWA crash cause

SMITHTOWN, New York (AP) — The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) urged caution about rushing to judgement in deciding what caused Paris-bound TWA Flight 800 to explode in the sky three months ago.

"We are still stymied as to what the initiating ignition was," NTSB spokesman Peter Goltz said Friday.

The centre fuel tank remains the best piece of

evidence in the probe because investigators know that it exploded. They just don't know if the blast was touched off by a bomb, a missile or a mechanical malfunction.

"There's no question the center fuel tank exploded. Basically, that's all we know," said one investigator who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

"There isn't one thing that stands out by itself. For every opinion, there is

an opposing opinion," the source said.

NBC nightly news reported Friday that just before the crash, the plane's pilots were attempting to transfer fuel from a wing tank on one side of the plane to feed engines on the other. The manoeuvre was undertaken to correct an imbalance of fuel in the plane's many tanks, NBC said.

The network said the revelation was of great

interest to investigators who are more and more inclined to believe something mechanical brought down the plane.

Boeing Co. spokesman Doug Webb said the balancing of fuel would occur by using fuel in the fullest tank until the tanks were level. The fuel would not be transferred from tank to tank, nor transferred through the centre fuel tank.

Opinions have been plentiful but a solution has

been elusive since the Jumbo Jet exploded and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean at dusk on July 17, killing all 230 aboard.

Mr. Goltz said the NTSB has not identified any signs of high-intensity explosives as is common when a plane is downed by a bomb. But he said it was too early to rule out a bomb or a missile.

A second source, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of ano-

nymity, said investigators have yet to find that anything penetrated the centre fuel tank from the outside. The source added, though, that a bomb might only leave evidence of a small hole.

"We only see inside out," the source said. "When all the pieces to the tank are in place and we only see explosion inside out, we will become pretty suspicious. We know the tank exploded. The whole key is why.

What set the tank off?"

Some investigators say they are continuing to examine the possibility that there may have been an overpressurisation of the nearly empty tank even though the Boeing Co. has done preliminary tests that cast doubt on that possibility.

"If it's mechanical, it could be some fluke thing," one source said. "Everything went off simultaneously. That adds to the puzzle."

11-year-old dies after setting herself ablaze

TOKYO (AFP) — An 11-year-old Japanese girl burned herself to death after being scolded by her mother for untidy room, police said Saturday. The primary school pupil in Numazu, Shizuoka prefecture, poured kerosene on herself and lit a fire while sitting outside an apartment building near her home Friday evening, police officials said. The girl was already dead when firefighters, alerted by a neighbor, arrived at the site. The case is being treated as suicide. The girl, who was living with her parents, grandparents and two siblings, had left her room after being scolded for leaving her room untidy. The officials said that she had appeared taken ill from her home. Jiji Press quoted a police official at her home saying that she was "a not reliable child." "I was getting along well with her friends, and I knew there was no case of bullying against her," the official added. "I cannot believe what happened." According to police, a total of 64 children aged below 13 are reported to have committed suicide in Japan in the past 10 years. The police said that the girl was a 10-year-old. Many of the children, however, have been reported to have committed suicide in Japan in the past 10 years.

Policeman cleared of \$2 calculator theft

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York City policeman was acquitted of stealing a \$2 calculator from a woman's purse in a case that had been widely publicized. The 31-year-old officer, who was charged with the theft in 1994, was found not guilty by a jury in federal court Thursday. The woman, who was a 40-year-old African American, had reported the theft to the police. The officer, who was charged with the theft, was found not guilty by a jury in federal court Thursday. The woman, who was a 40-year-old African American, had reported the theft to the police.

Former nuclear base to become prison

AFP — A former nuclear base in the Philippines is being converted into a prison. The base, which was used for nuclear weapons testing, is being converted into a prison. The base, which was used for nuclear weapons testing, is being converted into a prison.

Job seeker goes from cow to radio

AFP — A job seeker in the Philippines went from being a cow to a radio. The job seeker, who was a cow, was found by a radio station. The job seeker, who was a cow, was found by a radio station.

World News



Japan's Prime Minister and President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Ryutaro Hashimoto Saturday raises his fist as he speaks from atop a LDP campaign van on the eve of the first general election in three years. Japan votes for the first time on Sunday under a complex electoral system combining single seat constituencies with proportional representation (Reuters photo)

On election eve, Hashimoto pleads for big turnout

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, hoping to end three years of coalition rule in Japan and return his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to sole power, pleaded on the eve of polling for a big turnout in Sunday's election.

Worried that the LDP majority forecast in opinion polls could disappear if voters thought the result was decided and stayed away, Mr. Hashimoto maintained the frantic pace of his campaigning Saturday.

"Please come and vote," he told Tokyo rallies. "Going out of power three years ago, we understand how very difficult it is to regain people's trust. Your vote is important."

Surveys have shown the turnout may be below 60 percent, worse than the post-war record. Low turnout is a problem in Japan since 1993.

Commentators say the paucity of policy differences between the parties and general disillusionment about what politicians can achieve is behind the apparent voter apathy.

If the poll forecasts of an LDP win hold up, it would be a remarkable comeback by the party, which has steadily built itself up since 1993, when it lost power for the first time in 38 years because of a series of financial scandals.

It clawed its way into a coalition government one year after the setback, but with only 211 seats in the previous parliament, it had to share power with two smaller parties.

Newspaper opinion polls have forecast that the LDP will win a simple majority of at least 251 seats in the new parliament, which is elected for four years.

"A fierce battle is in progress but we want to take the helm of state," said Mr. Hashimoto, premier since last January.

Ichiro Ozawa, leader of the main opposition group Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), matched the pace of Mr. Hashimoto's campaigning and indicated that not only his party's future was at stake in the poll.

In what commentators said was a hint he might leave politics if Shinshinto failed to win, Mr. Ozawa, a kingmaker in the LDP until he lost out in a power struggle, told a Tokyo rally.

"I am resolved to carry out reforms even if it means putting my 26-year political career at stake. But we cannot make it unless we win a majority."

Shinshinto opposes an LDP plan to raise the sales tax from three to five per cent from April and instead proposes income tax cuts.

A record 1,503 candidates from nine parties are contesting the poll, the first to be held under a new electoral system meant to foster party politics and issues instead of individual pork burrelling.

Under the new system, the lower house is reduced to 500 seats from 511 and multi-seat constituencies are abolished.

Voters elect 300 single-seat candidates, while 200 seats are decided by proportional representation.

In the old house, Shinshinto held 160 seats to the LDP's 211. The LDP governed in a coalition with the Socialists and the Sakigake Party, an LDP splinter group.

In a sign of political volatility in the past three years, 206 of 456 incumbents seeking reelection are now with parties different to those with which they were elected in 1993.

The balance of power could be decided by the fledgling Democratic Party, formed only last month with 52 lower house defectors from the Socialists and Sakigake.

It boasts as one of its leaders Health Minister Naoto Kan, who has won hero status this year by uncovering his ministry's role in hush-up a scandal over HIV-tainted blood products.

Good weather is forecast for election day. Polls open at 7 a.m. (2200 GMT Saturday) and close at 6 p.m. (0900 GMT).

Election officials say that unless it is a very close race, the result could be known by about midnight (1500 GMT).

Storm passed to the east of the capital Havana. State radio said about 75,000 people were evacuated from crumbling and decaying buildings in Havana as a precaution.

The National Civil Defence Organisation said some 7,000 homes were partially or completely damaged in central and western provinces. Most had damaged roofs but 130 homes were completely ruined.

Some 53 homes in Havana partially collapsed, most of them in the city's historic quarter where many old buildings are in a state of decay.

Lili dumped torrential rain of up to 30 centimetres in its path, sending rivers over their banks and causing flash flooding.

President Fidel Castro echoed the feelings of Havana's two million inhabitants when he told reporters that while things might be bad, at least the "worst scenario" had not happened — hurricane Lili passing over the capital.

Clinton orders investigation after Democratic Party funding fiasco

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A top Democratic official has left his fundraising duties following allegations that President Bill Clinton's party accepted possibly illegal campaign donations, many of them from Asian-linked sources, according to a report Saturday.

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) Friday removed finance Vice-Chairman John Huang from fundraising duties and requested that the Federal Election Commission investigate questions about contributions Mr. Huang helped solicit, the Washington Post reported.

A DNC spokeswoman told the Post that Mr. Huang had stopped "active fundraising" activities because "he is devoting his full attention to addressing questions about whether some donations to the party were proper."

Mr. Huang's fundraising targeted the U.S. Asian-American Community.

Mr. Clinton, seeking to defuse a potentially damaging row over funding, bowed to Republican pressure Friday to open an investigation into Asian-linked contributions to the Democratic Party.

Speaking at the White House, Mr. Clinton said his Chief of Staff Leon Panetta had already ordered the DNC to investigate a number of allegations concerning millions of dollars in funding for the party.

"Mr. Panetta has asked the DNC to review all the contributions to make sure they were appropriate," Mr. Clinton told journalists as he opened a meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri.

Earlier Friday, a vitriolic Bob Dole, the 73-year-old Republican challenger to Mr. Clinton in the Nov. 5 presidential election, demanded that Mr. Clinton

come clean on allegations of funding irregularities.

On the stump in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sen. Dole jumped on questionable contributions, especially those linked to Indonesia and South Korea.

"It's mind-boggling. The number of scandals suggest an abuse of power in this White House," he told a rally.

"Every day we have a new scandal involving the foreign corruption of America," he said, referring to the latest row over a \$140,000 Democratic fundraiser at a Buddhist temple owned by a Taiwanese sect in California in April.

"Our elections are not for sale to some foreign influence," he said.

"Come on Mr. President, come clean Mr. President, come clean Mr. President. This is really unbelievable," he added.

Tax-exempt religious organizations like temples are generally prohibited from holding political fund-raisers. How supposedly penniless monks produced donations of thousands of dollars has also been questioned.

On Thursday the White House admitted the DNC made a mistake in holding the temple fund-raiser attended by Vice-President Al Gore.

The DNC returned the money last month, but the affair comes on the heels of a huge flap over the political and business ties between Mr. Clinton and Asian donors, notably Indonesian tycoon James Riady, who together with his business associates donated more than half a million dollars to the Clinton campaign.

In another recent case, the Democrats were forced to return an illegal \$250,000 received from a South Korean firm.

"It's time to restore that trust in America," Sen. Dole

said, "to replace the slippery liberalism and bring back common sense and integrity to the White House."

Opposition Republicans have charged that the Clinton administration has allowed foreign governments to gain influence on decision-making by accepting the contributions.

On Thursday House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich, a prominent Republican ally of Sen. Dole, said the matter called into question a variety of government actions, including U.S. policy toward East Timor and a proposed sale of F-16 fighter jets to Indonesia.

"I think you are clearly going to have an influence-peddling investigation involving Indonesians and an illegal fundraising investigation involving the National Democratic Committee," he added.

On Friday the White House denied that contributions from Indonesians had influenced U.S. policy towards the South East Asian country and muffled criticism of human rights abuses there.

"This administration has pressed the issue of human rights specifically with respect to the government of Indonesia and East Timor harder than the last two administrations," White House spokesman Michael McCurry said.

For days Sen. Dole has been on the attack against Mr. Clinton over the character issue, hoping to narrow the gap in the polls which continue to give Mr. Clinton a wide lead.

Meanwhile, CNN reported Friday that Sen. Dole will focus in the final weeks of the campaign on winning votes in California and the west, but he is writing off most of the mid-Atlantic states and the northeast.

Cable News Network (CNN), quoting Dole campaign aides, said the Republican challenger's strategy called for a major final push in all western and mountain states except Oregon and Washington.

Additionally, Sen. Dole would focus on winning the key states of Ohio and Michigan, as well as Indiana, Nebraska and his home state of Kansas.

Sen. Dole is heading to New Hampshire this weekend and would like to secure a victory there, but his aides told CNN he was writing off the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey and the rest of the mid-Atlantic, as well as the northeast.

In an interview with the cable on-line network MSNBC, Sen. Dole said President Clinton's lead had narrowed to eight percentage points in California.

"We're going to spend a lot of time there, and we think we have an opportunity," Sen. Dole said.

He also predicted a win in Kansas, saying he might return to his hometown of Russell, Kansas to vote on Nov. 5.

Sen. Dole trimmed Mr. Clinton's lead to nine percentage points in the Reuters daily tracking poll released Friday.

Mr. Clinton got 43.6 per cent in the poll to Sen. Dole's 34.6 per cent. Reform party candidate Ross Perot scored 5.8 per cent and 13.3 per cent said they were still undecided.

The poll, conducted by John Zogby Group International, tracks about 900 likely voters over a three-day period. The latest result, with a 3.3 percentage point margin of error, reflects polling Tuesday through Thursday.

"I think the numbers are moving in our direction," Sen. Dole told MSNBC.

Thousands of Hutus flee Zaire fighting

KIGALI (R) — Some 46,000 Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees have fled two camps in eastern Zaire where the Zairean army is battling ethnic Tutsis, a spokesman for the U.N. refugee agency said Saturday.

"The populations of both Kagunga and Runingo (camps), some 46,000 refugees, have all moved — some to Uvira, some into the hills above Uvira, some into banana plantations, and the remainder have dispersed," Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Zaire's neighbour Rwanda, told Reuters.

"Because of difficulty in assessing the area outside Uvira, even normal activities are in question. We have only been able to distribute aid in and around Uvira," he added.

Mr. Stromberg said Kagunga had a population of 27,000 refugees before it was attacked by the Tutsis — known as Banyamulenge — Friday while Runingo Camp had a total of 19,000.

Fresh fighting erupted around Uvira Saturday after the Banyamulenge — ethnic Tutsis who came to Zaire from Rwanda at the end of the 18th century — attacked Luwengi Refugee Camp near Uvira. There are 12 refugee camps in the Uvira chain with a population of 220,000 people.

At least 28 civilians have been killed in attacks in Zaire's eastern refugee zone in the fighting, humanitarian sources said Saturday.

A senior Zairean military commander told Reuters that ethnic Tutsi Banyamulenge from Rwanda's army had crossed the border from Burundi Friday and had targeted civilians living around the village of Kiliba.

Kashmir leader says he has reports hostages are alive

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Jammu and Kashmir state Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah said Saturday he had reports that four Western tourists taken hostage by Muslim militants last year were still alive.

Mr. Abdullah also told a news conference he was giving 30 days to Kashmir's separatist militants to surrender their guns or face a crackdown by Indian security forces.

"According to the latest reports that we have received, all the four hostages are alive. I am trying to investigate into it," Mr. Abdullah told a news conference in the state capital of Srinagar.

Kashmir's shadowy Al Faran militants kidnapped five men — a Norwegian, two Britons, one American and a German — in July last year and demanded the release of jailed militant colleagues.

The kidnappers killed the Norwegian, Hans Christian Ostro, after the Indian government refused to accept the group's demands. Militant sources later said the remaining four hostages — Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, American Donald Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert — had been killed but the government did not confirm this.

Mr. Abdullah, whose National Conference party won an absolute majority in last month's assembly elections, said he had some idea of the location where the hostages were believed to be held, but declined to give details.

He asked Kashmiri militants to join the mainstream but did not say if he was talking of an amnesty.

"I give them 30 days to surrender their weapons before any government official," Mr. Abdullah told a news conference in Srinagar. "I have decided to get them in the mainstream."

"If they don't surrender, they will face further guns," Mr. Abdullah said.

Mr. Abdullah did not say if he would call a ceasefire during the period between the security forces and militant groups fighting Indian rule in the Himalayan state since 1990.

Police and hospital sources say at least 20,000 people have been killed in Kashmir's separatist violence. Mr. Abdullah said the total was closer to 50,000.

He also warned Kashmir's recently formed pro-government militias to surrender their guns, promising them jobs in Indian security units.

The leader of Kashmir's

National Conference party won an absolute majority in the state assembly last month when India held the first elections there in nine years.

In a tearful speech during his inauguration earlier this month, Mr. Abdullah said: "The last drop of my blood is dedicated to India."

Mr. Abdullah's remarks on the hostages came amid growing pessimism over their fate.

Western diplomats in Delhi said this month that the United States was considering offering a financial reward for information about the whereabouts of the hostages.

But Washington wanted first to clear the offer with Indian authorities and the other countries whose nationals are held.

British High Commissioner (Ambassador) David Gore-Booth told reporters earlier this month there were reports that the hostages had recently been sighted.

But he said there was no firm information as to their whereabouts. "We have no proof of life or proof of death," he said.

Asked if diplomats were extremely gloomy, Mr. Gore-Booth said: "Yes."

Indonesia's Megawati lauds Human Rights Commission

JAKARTA (R) — Megawati Sukarnoputri, ousted leader of the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), said Saturday a report by Indonesia's official human rights body on riots in Jakarta on July 27 was "independent and brave."

She said in a statement that she respected the Indonesian Commission on Human Rights for its report on the riots, which erupted after police raided the PDI headquarters in Jakarta to evict her supporters from the building.

It was the worst violence in the city for more than two decades and left at least five people dead and scores of buildings and vehicles gutted by fire.

"The PDI respects the (commission) for its objectivity...and for putting the nation above individual groups," Ms. Megawati said.

She said that the commission had been "independent and brave" in its report and in the defence of human rights.

Mr. Megawati, daughter of late founding President Sukarno, was ousted as leader of the PDI in June this year after a government-backed congress elected Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Surjadi as leader in her place.

Ms. Megawati has not accepted the decision, saying she had been lawfully elected as PDI leader for a five-year term in 1993.

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Law, education for all

THE VIOLENCE and hooliganism that erupted at the end of the Al Faisali-Wihdat football match in Amman on Friday was reminiscent of similar unsportsmanlike conducts that have marred some soccer championship matches in other countries of the world. On Thursday, Istanbul had witnessed an exaggerated demonstration of joy by Turkish fans when their team, Galatasaray, beat the visiting French team Paris Saint Germain in a second round European Cup Winners Cup match, resulting in the death of many people and the destruction of property on a large scale. Guatemala, witnessing an even greater tragedy, is still burying bodies of over a hundred victims who suffocated in a stampede during last Wednesday's Guatemala-Costa Rica World Cup qualifying game.

Fortunately for us, violence in and around the Sports City was less bloody and destructive. Just the same it should not have happened at all. But having said that, what does, can, a state anywhere in the world do about fans who cannot help going into a frenzy when their respective teams win or lose? Ban sport?

Historically speaking, tension, even violence, had accompanied previous matches between the Faisali and Wihdat clubs. So what experience did we learn and have in preparing for Friday's match? And what should we be doing in order to prevent a recurrence of this kind of unjustifiable behaviour in the future, in the knowledge that beneath the surface in the Wihdat-Faisali competition lie not natural zeal and tribalism for one's sports team but also politics and bent-up frustrations among our youths?

It is an open secret that the Faisali-Wihdat rivalry has come to symbolise a clash of two political currents, those who go to the extreme in supporting "East Jordanian nationalism" and the others who back "Palestinian nationalism." Most, if not all, of those who instigated or took part in Friday's rioting, and they are a minority, are overenthusiastic young men who find escape from their daily life frustrations, whether in political or socio-economic terms, in expressing themselves violently at the end of such hotly contested matches as last Friday's. Sport, as is well-known, is not just liberating for the body. Many people, all over the world, use it as a means to liberate the soul as well, or at least to vent off pressures which accumulate in any society, especially among the young generations, and mainly those who suffer from poverty, unemployment and emptiness.

Jordan is no different in this respect from other countries in this regard. The question is how to go about addressing such frustrations as those held by our youths, and treat at the same time the untowardly symptoms of narrow "nationalistic" perspectives that will not disappear from our midst easily or any time soon.

National unity in Jordan is not and will not be threatened by hooligans, bigots and parochialists on either side. But a renewed drive at educating the young, not only in word but also in deed, in raising shared values above petty differences is essential to ensure that our unity is here to stay and become stronger everyday. On the other hand, law and order, which is what this state is all about, has to be respected by all citizens, regardless of what origins and regions they come from. In the end, educated and law-abiding citizenry is what we are after, in politics, sports and everything else.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI Arabic daily Saturday welcomed French President Jacques Chirac's coming visit to Jordan, hailing it as an historic event in view of France's stand and its efforts to promote the cause of peace in the Middle East. The visit reflects Europe's keen interest in this region and its desire to play a stronger role in the future of this region and act as a true partner in social and economic development, said the paper. Jordan, as leadership and people, welcomes the French president whose country maintains strong ties with the Jordanians and continues to provide assistance towards the development of this country, it added. What is to be regretted, though, is to see the U.S. and Israel trying hard to prevent any European role in the peace-making process and to isolate Europe from this region which is kept under the sole U.S.-Israeli hegemony, according to the paper. But Israel, which is ignoring Europe, is harming its own interests because isolation from Europe tends to win the Jewish state more enemies than friends, especially as the present Israeli government leaders' actions are facing mounting criticism from European nations and the world at large, said the daily. The paper expressed hope that Mr. Chirac's visit will help lay the ground for a lasting Middle East settlement and help pressure Israel into respecting its peace deals with the Arab World and the Palestinians.

MOHAMMAD DAOUD, a writer for Al Dstour, criticised the government for still allowing import of bananas at a time when the local production of the fruit is abundant. No one seems to know the reasons behind allowing merchants to import the foreign bananas, which now flood the markets, and no one seems to be listening to the complaints of the local producers. Even if local production is insufficient, there can be no justification for allowing the imported bananas to flood the local markets to the detriment of the local producers' interests, continued the writer. The local bananas are of good quality, and sold for reasonable prices, but the producers are finding it difficult to compete with the imported products and are frustrated because they cannot find buyers for their fruit in Jordan.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Excessive dividends prevent internal growth

IN A report on "Arab Stock Markets," ING Barings criticised the managers of Jordanian companies for their failure to reinvest profits in businesses to expand and modernise them. "Dividend payments", the reports says, "are key for local investors to determine investment in a company, and a way for the owners of businesses to participate in profit growth." "The result", concludes the report, is that because of lack of reinvestment, many Jordanian companies remain small.

It is true that most shareholding companies give priority to declaring the highest dividend rates possible, while leaving the bare minimum to finance internal growth. Such companies are condemned to remain small. Their expansion needs external financing, either by floating more shares and bringing in more shareholders, or by borrowing from banks.

The explanation of this phenomenon is that management tries to improve the price of shares in the market and to gain the image of a successful administration on the assumption that a higher dividend is an indicator of efficient management.

It is worth noting that the ratio of internal growth is not used in Jordan as one of the indicators that evaluate companies' performance.

Instead of alleviating this problem, the Companies Law

came to aggravate the situation. For some unknown reason, the law prevents companies from feeding more than 20 per cent of the profits into their voluntary reserves. It prevents the accumulation of both compulsory and voluntary reserves from exceeding the historical paid up capital. It prevents retaining more than 50 per cent of the profits, except with a specific approval of the annual general shareholders meeting. In summary, the law wants companies to maximise distribution of profits as dividends and minimise retained income.

The logic behind the law is that governments are short sighted. They want to create the feeling of success and economic prosperity by announcing higher dividends; they do not care about the future, thinking that the future will take care of itself. The end result is that Jordanian shareholding companies remain small and their number increases. We now have over ten pharmaceutical companies and some twenty insurance companies, because the older companies did not grow fast enough based on retained profits.

Now we are in for a major blow. The government intends to remove the 15 per cent fee imposed by law on the capitalisation of reserves.

Most companies will immediately rush to distribute free shares to look successful and please the shareholders. The result is that the nominal paid-up capital will double while

the actual shareholders' equity remains the same. What takes place is a mere accounting entry. But later on, managements will come under pressure to distribute a higher portion of the same profits, because dividends are normally declared as a percentage of paid up capital. Reinvesting profits and internal growth will diminish even further.

It is obvious that increasing the paid-up capital through capitalisation of reserves does not mean a new investment that deserves to be encouraged. The concerned company will reap no benefit whatsoever. The only result is creating a new burden, in having to distribute more from the same level of profits. Internal growth is the casualty.

One could have understood the exemption of distribution of free shares from tax when cash dividends were tax exempt. However, now that cash dividends are subject to 10 per cent withholding tax, it is not understood why dividends should be tax exempt if paid in kind rather than in cash. The recipients can readily convert their free shares into cash in the market and receive tax-exempt cash.

Once the law is amended, management can distribute free shares at repeated intervals, keep shareholders happy, have the appearance of success, and leave the Ministry of Finance with an empty bag.

East Timor: To peaceful self-determination in 3 stages

By Jose Ramos-Horta

SYDNEY — Despite the oppression and suffering in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor since Indonesia's invasion nearly 21 years ago, I and others leading the movement that is resisting the Indonesian occupation continue to seek a peaceful settlement.

We have tried to convince the government of President Suharto in Jakarta that its intransigence on East Timor will only prolong conflict and instability in the region.

Aware of Indonesia's interests and the difficulties of abruptly reversing an illegal occupation, the National Council of Maubere Resistance, the umbrella organisation of

the pro-independence forces, which I represent abroad, has proposed a three-phase peace plan.

It is intended to assist the U.N. secretary-general, who has a mandate from the United Nations to find a solution to the East Timor conflict. The plan is in line with statements by East Timorese Catholic Bishop Carlos Belo. It could assist Jakarta in extricating itself from the East Timor quagmire.

Phase 1 (one to two years):

Talks between Indonesia and Portugal under the auspices of the U.N. secretary-general, with East Timorese participation, to end armed activities in East Timor; release political prisoners; reduce Indonesian military

personnel and civil servants; remove armaments; expand activities by the International Committee of the Red Cross; carry out a population census; provide entry to U.N. specialised agencies working in the fields of public health, development and environmental protection; restore all basic human rights; remove restrictions on the Portuguese and Tetum languages; establish an independent human rights commission; appoint a resident representative of the U.N. secretary-general in East Timor.

In return, the East Timorese resistance forces would halt all hostilities against Indonesia and all acts that embarrass Jakarta.

Phase 2 (five years from

the end of Phase 1):

This would be a transition stage of autonomy in which East Timorese would govern themselves democratically through their local institutions.

There would be a U.N.-supervised election for an assembly. Only East Timorese would be eligible to vote and be elected. The assembly would elect an East Timorese governor.

Powers of the assembly would include legislation on investment, property, immigration and foreign trade.

During Phase 2, all remaining Indonesian troops would withdraw, and there would be a further reduction in the number of Indonesian civil servants. The territory would have no

army of its own, but a police force, organised by the United Nations, would be placed under the command of the governor.

Phase 3 could be extended by mutual consent between Indonesia and the East Timorese population expressing its views through a referendum.

Phase 3: A self-determination referendum, under U.N. supervision, would be held within a year of the start of this phase. The population could choose between free association with Indonesia, integration into Indonesia or independence.

I wrote personally to Mr. Suharto in March 1994 to give him an assurance that we would scrupulously respect any choice freely

made by the majority of the East Timorese people.

We have tried repeatedly to open a dialogue with the Indonesian government on our peace plan. So far we have been ignored. Nonetheless, we remain open to talks.

It is time for Indonesia to show courage and start a constructive and sincere dialogue to resolve the East Timor conflict and redress past mistakes.

The writer was awarded the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize, with Bishop Carlos Belo, for "work toward a just and peaceful solution" in East Timor. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Arabs waylaid along the information superhighway

By Gordon Robison

HARDLY A week now passes in the United States without the appearance of a major article on the next phase of the computer revolution and how it will alter our lives. The marvel of the week constantly changes, but a few themes emerge consistently: the linking of people across barriers of distance, culture and language; the ability of computers, through on-line networks, to put vast amounts of data at one's fingertips; the rising speed and falling price of computers themselves, and, most importantly, the inexorable advance of computer technology to ever broader strata of human society.

Through this process, individuals will become "empowered" (the amorphous buzzword of the moment) and the world will become a smaller, more peaceful, place as people build bridges to one another, and understanding among nations, by reaching out through their computer screens.

There is, of course, a dark side to this vision. Commentators here speak of a country in which economic divisions will increasingly be defined in terms of access to information technology. Many are alarmed by the availability of pornography, hate literature and bomb-making instructions over the Internet.

Another unpleasant aspect of this revolution, however, is only now beginning to receive some attention: the speed with which much of the developing world is being left behind. Recent coverage of this issue in the American press has focused on Africa, but the Arab Middle East, an area that includes some of the world's wealthiest countries, also leads any list of regions failing to make their way onto the information superhighway.

The Arab World's challenges in the computer era break down into two categories: those that are structural, and those that are political. Barring a radical change in the mind-set of most people running Middle Eastern governments today, neither set of problems is likely to be comprehensively addressed in the near future. Structural problems range from the quality of the telephone lines available to the reliability of existing computer services. At a

more basic level, structural problems also encompass the affordability and availability of computer technology throughout the region.

In many parts of the Arab World, including populous countries such as Egypt, telephone lines simply are not clear enough to hear computer traffic at the speeds that are the norm in the West. And things are getting worse. In 1990, while working as a foreign correspondent in Egypt, I began using my laptop computer to file stories electronically. On a good day, I could transmit data to Britain or the U.S. at 2,400 baud. More often I was forced to use the slower, 1,200 baud rate to ensure that my material arrived at its destination ungarbled. By the time I left Egypt in late 1994, it was the 1,200 baud rate that worked on a good day. Most of the time I had to send material at the painfully slow speed of 300 baud.

It is with this in mind that, to this day, I keep an ancient (1988 — in the computer world that is ancient) version of a communications programme on my laptop, which will run at 300 baud. The standard speed for data communications in the U.S. and Europe is now either 14,400 or 28,800 baud. Most communications software, and some modems, manufactured today either will not operate below 2,400 baud or have difficulty doing so. Such slow transmission results in, among other things, extremely high telephone bills, especially since many Arab countries either have no packet-switching networks (low-cost local dial-ups) or have networks that frequently do not function properly.

All this, however, is academic if one cannot afford, or has no access to, a computer. Even in the rich countries of the Gulf, the offerings displayed in most computer stores are painfully out of date and priced beyond the reach of most. The software and accessories available in much of the region are equally antiquated. The result is that even if one has the money for a computer, it may prove impossible to connect that machine to a phone network. Outside Dubai, which has a fairly competitive market for computers, up-to-date equipment is often prohibitively expensive. Obtaining service

for a broken machine can be difficult if not impossible.

Political barriers

Some of these problems are difficult to address quickly or cheaply — upgrading a country's telecommunications network is a project that goes far beyond the specific needs or desires of computer users — but several steps could easily make the technology more widely available. A good start would be to lower the high tax and tariff barriers that often make consumer electronics prohibitively expensive throughout the Arab World. But this raises the question of the political barriers computer technology faces. There are a few Arab governments that do not place obstacles in the way of citizens who wish to own a computer and hook it up to a telephone line (the UAE is one admirable case in point).

Few things are more indicative of Arab governments' fear and distrust of their own citizens than this desire to control access to the outside world. Where Western legislators are animated by the availability of pornography and bomb-building instructions on the Internet, Middle Eastern governments evince a broader set of fears. Public statements usually take the form of calls to withstand cultural imperialism and threats to Islamic culture. Still, one often has the impression that Middle Eastern governments are mainly concerned about their citizens having unfettered access to the international wire services and other uncensored news outlets or the ability to exchange information with people (including, possibly, exiled dissidents) and human rights organisations in other countries.

For authoritarian governments, allowing people open access to computer networks is a threat at least comparable in its gravity to the threat many in the region see from satellite television. Affordable laptop computers are a secret policeman's nightmare. Satellite TV is feared by some Arab governments, officially, because it may corrupt traditional values. While this may be genuinely felt in some quarters, it is fair to assume that many regimes are more worried about allowing their citizens access to

uncensored information than they are about the strip-tease game shows that appear on some satellite channels. Some countries have banned satellite dishes (with varying degrees of success) and others, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, hope to set up systems that will allow foreign satellite channels into homes and offices only after the programme stream has passed through a government-controlled filter.

Computers pose a security threat that is not so easily contained. The Egyptian government has made a great effort over the last two years to cut off the access of Islamist militants to incoming faxes from supporters overseas, but it will be much more difficult to stop computer messages. These can be dropped in an electronic mailbox for pick-up whenever, and from wherever, the recipient finds sufficient time (and privacy) to dial up the system. Ever longer computer battery life and advances in wireless communications technology will give dissidents, whether violent or not, the ability to roam ever further afield and still keep in touch.

Fears about security

This cannot be a pleasant thought either for the Mukhabarat sitting in their fortress on Lazgholi Street in central Cairo, or for their counterparts in Damascus, Baghdad or any number of other Arab capitals.

Ultimately, staunching the flow of technology into the region is a self-defeating proposition. As was the case with fax machines a few years ago, the people that governments least want to have the devices will get hold of them one way or another. It is ordinary citizens who suffer when access to new technology is denied or made unnecessarily expensive. Those with a lot of money and access to international phone lines can get around the system by dialling into computer networks in other countries. Egypt, for all its vast potential and the abilities of its scholars, has only a handful of links to the Internet. Egyptnet, the Cairo-based packet-switching network which supposedly provides access to various international computer links, has long been a bad joke. When I worked as a

journalist in Cairo, I often had to use Israelnet in Tel Aviv to file my stories. All those long-distance calls were expensive, but at least the system worked.

This highlights one of the small ironies of the Arab regimes' security fixation regarding computers: Israel, a country which is hardly cavalier about its own security, does not share their paranoia. Israel is home to one of memory-chip giant Intel's major manufacturing plants. It has an extensive software industry, and reportedly one of the highest rates of computer ownership per capita in the world.

The lesson ought to be that it is possible to keep tabs on your citizens but still allow them access to enough information to make up their own minds about things.

The fear throughout the Middle East is that the region will fall to

keep up with the rest of the world developmentally and technologically — that the Arab World will be left behind. This fear is valid, and it will exist until the people who run the Arab World manage to reconcile their security fears with the requirements of the modern world they profess to wish to enter. That the rules of entry and access are set by the West, largely according to its own cultural, social and political standards, may be unfair, but it happens to be the way things are.

Nobody in the Western computer industry is waiting around for the Arabs to make up their minds about whether, and on what terms, they want to join the information revolution. By the late 20th century's haves and have-nots grows wider.

Middle East International

LETTERS

TV should also entertain

To the Editor:

I AM at a loss to understand why it was decided to stop the series "The Bold and the Beautiful" at the end of the current month although I am sure that the responsible staff at Jordan Television is well aware that it is one of the shows most favoured on JTV and appreciated by the local and foreign viewers.

The argument that it was stopped because it is very expensive and the JTV cannot afford to meet the cost thereof cannot be accepted for several reasons.

The fact that the film is very expensive must have been known right from the beginning. If the cost was more than JTV could afford, why hire it from the outset?

Many viewers believe that the extra cost incurred was more than covered by the extra fees charged for the advertisements shown during the show.

It is most unfair, on the part of JTV, to stop the film in the middle of its showing. Viewers are most disappointed and dismayed.

Under the circumstances, I sincerely hope that the authorities concerned at the JTV would reconsider their decision, as a gesture of good will towards the viewers, who always appreciated and respected the JTV programmes.

We perhaps need not emphasise in this connection that the television is a means for education, just as it is for entertainment.

Juliana Ibrahim Al Khalil, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Palestinians appeal for \$865 million in aid next year

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority (PNA) called Friday for \$865 million in aid next year to finance long-term infrastructure projects.

Nabil Shaath, international cooperation minister, told a meeting here of Palestinian officials and foreign donors that the money would go towards new roads, public buildings and the construction of an airport in the Gaza Strip.

At the meeting, the U.N. special coordinator for the Palestinian territories, Terje Larsen, also expressed concern at the state of the Palestinian economy.

"The overall trend is wor-

rying," Mr. Larsen said, adding that the Palestinians' gross national product had fallen by 16 per cent since 1992.

The Palestinians say their economy has suffered because of a number of security closures imposed by Israel on its borders with the West Bank and Gaza Strip in recent years.

International donors have given the Palestinians \$1 billion in aid since the launch of self-rule in 1994 and have pledged another billion dollars.

Donor countries, the World Bank and the PNA are to meet in Paris next month to fix the level of aid for 1997.

Lebanon central bank cuts economic growth estimate

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's economic growth will fall to 4.5 per cent in 1996 from an earlier-expected 7.5 per cent partly due to a 17-day Israeli blitz on the country in April, central bank deputy governor Nasser Saidi was quoted on Monday as saying.

"We had estimated that growth would be 7-7.5 per cent this year, but as a result of the (Israeli) aggression the growth rate will reach 4-4.5 per cent," Mr. Saidi told the Beirut daily newspaper An Nahar in an interview.

Lebanon's estimated gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 1995 was seven per cent.

Mr. Saidi said the growth rate for 1996 would also fall due to economic reasons, including the current decline in construction activity in Lebanon.

"During the past years, there was a phenomenon of increasing growth in the construction sector and it was natural that this would recede, which negatively affects the economy and makes us reach low levels of growth," he said.

"It was natural that the growth rate would fall a little, but the Israeli aggres-

sions lowered this rate to lower than what was expected," he said.

Lebanese economists also blame high interest rates on government treasury bills for crowding out the private sector and stifling economic growth.

Fransabank, a leading Beirut bank, said in August 1996 growth would be nearly 3-4 per cent, compared with seven per cent in 1995, due to the Israeli blitz. According to official estimates the blitz caused damage worth \$500 million.

Mr. Saidi said Lebanon needed about \$60 billion over the next 10 years to build its economy "meaning, we will have to attract capital and to borrow...Lebanon needs to make use of outside funds to build its economy."

Two-thirds of the amount was needed by the private sector, he said.

Meanwhile, international and Arab organisations have granted \$82 million in loans to modernise the Lebanese administration. Administrative Reform Minister Anwar Al Khalil said.

Yemen plans to retire over 35,000 civil servants

SANAA (R) — Yemen plans to retire over 35,000 civil servants under IMF-agreed economic reforms, an official said Saturday.

"We are working on plans to retire over 35,000 people who either reached 60 years of age or have been working for the government for over 35 years," said the ministry of labour and social development official who requested anonymity.

In the past, the impoverished Arab state never observed such service regulations, economists said.

The public sector employs between 650,000 to 700,000 people — excluding army and police personnel, they added.

Yemen has raised prices of fuel and electricity, water and telephone rates as part of an economic reform plan launched in March 1995 in agreement with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Unemployment, which stood at between 30 and 50 per cent in 1994, dropped to 25 per cent since it began the reforms.

Meanwhile, impoverished Yemen pins high hopes on a new free trade zone and improved ties with oil-rich Saudi Arabia to salvage an ailing economy.

But analysts say the eco-

nomic hardships are more complex than can be cured by a simple face-lift and will require years of fiscal, administrative and other reforms.

"Launching the free zone project in Aden is an indication of political stability and security," Dirham Noman, deputy chief of Yemen Free Zone Public Authority, told Reuters.

The free zone will have a positive impact on Yemen's national economy and put Yemen on the map of international trading routes," he said.

Yemen hopes revenue from the \$500 million zone which was launched last month would grow to \$5 billion after three years of operations from \$1 million in the first year.

The zone just outside the Red Sea's southern entrance is expected to start operation in 1999. Officials say it could attract \$1 billion in badly-needed foreign investments.

After extensive damage in the 1994 civil war, Yemen is also in the process of upgrading its only oil refinery in Aden, once a flourishing Arab port.

Analysts said the revival of Aden, the economic capital, and the possible resumption of Saudi benevolence is part of a treatment but not a cure for years of

rivalries, wars, natural disasters, mismanagement of the economy and huge subsidies.

"The project is one step in the right direction," said a Dubai-based financial analyst.

Yemen, one of the Arab World's poorest states despite its recent joining of the elite club of oil exporters, is currently implementing the second phase of wide reforms agreed with the IMF and the World Bank.

Yemen forecasts a 1996 budget deficit of 181.41 billion riyals (\$1.39 billion), 3.8 per cent of the gross domestic product, and said

it hoped the Paris club of creditor nations will allow it to reschedule 60 per cent of its \$8.2 billion debt.

The independent producer pumps about 350,000 barrels a day and industry sources say Yemen is currently amending production-sharing agreements to attract more international interest in exploration to raise output.

Officials have said that the success of reform programme and attempts to bridge a \$900 million gap in the balance of payments depends on donor states and international organisations.

Yemeni officials also said

they hoped aid and investments would follow a landmark visit in August by Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan which appeared to put an end to years of tension, mistrust and recent border clashes.

Economic hardships for the population of 16.6 million, worsened when Arab Gulf allies cut off crucial financial aid when Yemen appeared to side with Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Some one million Yemeni workers, with annual remittances of about \$1 billion, were expelled from Saudi Arabia and neighbouring Arab Gulf states. Yemen

also lost around \$100 million a year of Saudi aid prior to the Gulf crisis.

Yemen suffered a further setback in 1994 when after four years of unity the former Marxist southern state launched a failed bid to revive South Yemen. Northern forces crushed the attempt in a two-month civil war which cost \$11 billion. Yemen's economy suffered a further blow in June when the worst floods in three decades caused damage estimated at \$1.2 billion to homes, electricity networks and other installations.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates		Prices as at 19/10/96 20:37	
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP
US Dollar	1.5415	0.8293	1.2683
DE Mark	0.6487	1.0000	0.8227
GB Sterling	1.5891	2.0186	1.0000
CHF Franc	0.7855	1.3144	0.4855
JP Yen	0.0089	1.3695	0.5587
CA Dollar	0.7410	1.1289	0.4675
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0021	0.0008
NL Guilder	0.5782	0.8809	0.3835
FR Franc	0.1921	0.2960	0.1208

Energy	
Oil	Last Previous
Brent	26.05 25.50
WTI	25.75 25.35
Bony	26.05 25.50
Dubai	21.85 21.31
UL Gas	231.00 228.00

Mid-East Currencies	
Currency	USD
SA Riyal	0.2666
AE Dirham	0.2723
KW Dinar	3.3356
BH Dinar	0.3770
CY Pound	2.1309

Metal Prices	
Metal	Bid Offer
Gold (oz's)	380 380.5
Silver (oz's)	4.85 4.91
Platinum (oz's)	383.5 384.5
AL (3 Months)	1355 1362
CU (3 Months)	1846 1951
Zinc (3 Months)	1018 1023
Lead (3 Months)	720 725
NI (3 Months)	7050 7080

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)	
Period	1 3 6 12
Cncy	Month Months Months Year
USD	5.25 5.40 5.50 5.59
GBP	5.41 5.74 6.06 6.18
JPY	0.35 0.38 0.37 0.40
DEM	2.84 2.81 3.00 3.05
FRF	3.37 3.37 3.44 3.48
CHF	1.37 1.43 1.37 1.62
ITL	8.06 7.87 7.62 7.50

Main Equity Indices	
Index	Value
New York	DOW JONES
New York	S&P 500
London	FT-SE 100
Tokyo	NICKIE 225
Paris	CAC 40
Frankfurt	DAX

Energy	
Commodity	Last Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	118.5
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1465
Sugar (\$/ton)	326.5
Wheat (\$/ton)	161
Soya (c/lbs)	21.62
Tra (\$/kg)	115
Barley (\$/bsh)	2.51
Rice (\$/ton)	465

JOD Cross Rates	
Currency	Buy Sell
US Dollar	0.708 0.710
GB Sterling	1.1238 1.1294
DE Mark	0.4585 0.4608
CHF Franc	0.5597 0.5595
FR Franc	0.1358 0.1365
JP Yen	0.8263 0.8324
NL Guilder	0.4088 0.4108
IT Lira	0.4608 0.4629

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

Egypt says only CAP prevents trade deal with EU

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's chief negotiator with the European Union (EU) has said that the only obstacle to a partnership agreement was what he called European worship of the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP).

Assistant foreign minister Gamal Bayoumi told Reuters that Egypt's negotiations with the EU were "90 per cent done" but both sides were still wrangling about the 15-member bloc's stand on agricultural imports.

"The EU has created a God that they pray to called the CAP which they feed every year with more than \$70 billion and it has a lot of believers," he said.

"I am not asking them to change their religion, but I will keep mine. We will agree once they recognise my religion," he stressed.

Egyptian and European economic experts in Brussels have been arguing over the free trade accord for years and the CAP — which subsidises farmers within the union to increase food production — has been at the centre of the dispute.

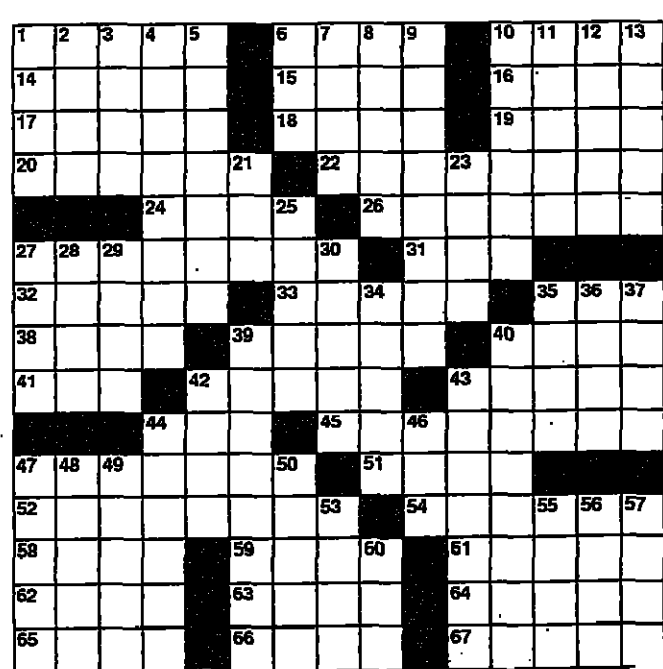
Egypt has repeatedly said the EU is seeking an open market for its own industrial goods but is unwilling to reciprocate on Egypt's agricultural exports.

"With the CAP they say they are protecting three per cent of the European population. We have 56 per cent of the population working on agricultural land and we don't have any qualms about the free trade accord," Mr. Bayoumi said.

THE Daily Crossword

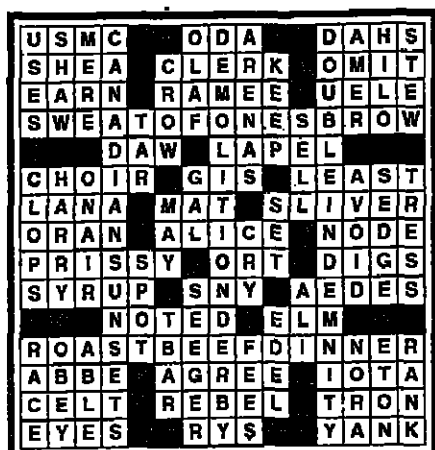
ACROSS

- 1 Swiftly
- 6 Fastener
- 10 Young horse
- 14 Relating to structure
- 15 Sheep shelter
- 16 Helmet wreath
- 17 Feather
- 18 Sounds of laughter
- 19 Deck post
- 20 Leg-o'-mutton, e.g.
- 22 Tree with a whitish wood
- 24 Tra —
- 26 Metal marble
- 27 Food-serving hour
- 31 Scepter
- 32 Hardy or North
- 33 Foreigner
- 35 Kimono sash
- 38 Radames' beloved
- 39 Dwarflike creature
- 40 River to the Baltic
- 41 London repast
- 42 Viniculturist's fruit
- 43 Without help
- 44 The gums
- 45 Whatnots
- 47 Certain cleanser
- 51 Pond plant
- 52 Smoking pipe
- 54 Detective Lupin of fiction
- 58 "To —, and a bone..."
- 59 Natterjack
- 61 Book of maps
- 62 Certain fruit
- 63 Border lake
- 64 Condescond
- 65 Literary collections
- 66 Remove
- 67 Delete



DOWN

- 1 Elec. units
- 2 Survey of opinion
- 3 Together, musically
- 4 Evergreen shrub
- 5 Raise
- 6 Acad.
- 7 Ark builder
- 8 Musketeer
- 9 Partridge perch
- 10 — off (disposed of by fraud)
- 11 Bay window
- 12 Mountain system of Asia
- 13 "— entertain you"
- 21 Yalle
- 23 Sign gas
- 25 Iowa communal society
- 27 Castle protector
- 28 Writer Wiesel
- 29 Alan or Robert
- 30 Bolt together?
- 34 "— man with seven..."
- 35 Aroma
- 36 Nota —
- 37 Angers
- 39 Shaded
- 40 Eurasian tree
- 42 Amorphous
- 43 Build up sediment deposit
- 44 Habitual practices
- 46 In the manner of
- 47 — Flow
- 48 Moses' brother
- 49 Camel kin
- 50 Sticks out like — thumb
- 53 Make welcome
- 55 Charles Lamb
- 56 Bedevils
- 57 Serf of old
- 60 Ruby or Sandra

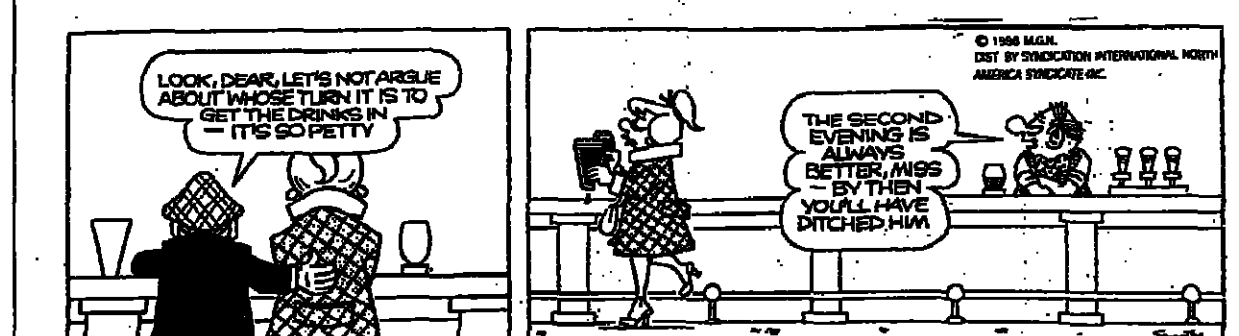


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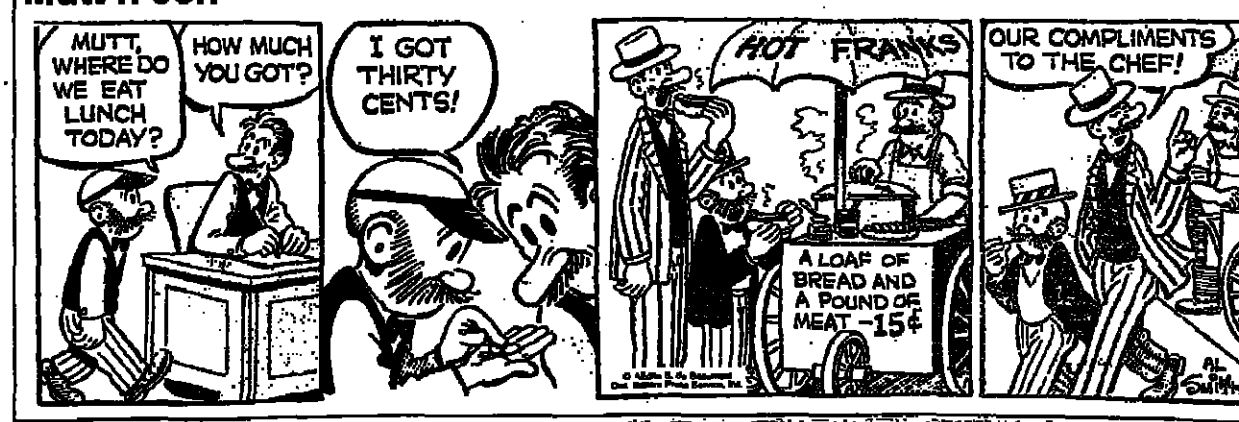
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The morning today is fine for enjoying pleasures and elevating your consciousness. Show more thought for your mate.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) You can have much pleasure at home in the morning today, but try not to disagree with rambunctious youngsters later this evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Friends may give good ideas in the morning today, but later this afternoon is not good for suggestions. Make telephone calls which are worthwhile.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have plenty for your needs at this time but need not make unnecessary suggestions.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Handle the personal affairs which give you the greatest satisfaction in the morning today, but later this evening you find that others are not very cooperative.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Meditation is wise in the morning today, so that you can elevate your consciousness to greater abundance for you to have much prosperity.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) See a friend who can give you a fine favour today, but later this evening keep away from groups of all kind. Get busy at some hobby which you like.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get into the outside world today and handle public duties wisely. Avoid disagreements later in the evening. Enjoy radio.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day today, to make use of knowledge you have attained during the day. Do nothing which can get you into difficulty.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) The morning today can be happy with your mate, but later this evening avoid difficulties of some kind. Tonight is good for handling business.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A fellow associate can prove to be most loyal to you today so be appreciative. Avoid others who are not very true later in the evening.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Early today get busy making your surroundings more charming for your loved ones. Later this evening, improve your health in some manner.

Birthstones of October: Opal — Tourmaline.

Iraq to continue giving preference to Jordanian companies

BAGHDAD (J.T.) — Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh stressed Thursday that his country maintains good trade relations with Jordan, and that Baghdad will continue to give preference to Jordanian companies, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al Dustour.

Speaking at a press conference on the eve of his country's preparations for the 29th Baghdad International Fair, Dr. Saleh said 45 companies from 16 countries will participate in the fair, which will be held on Nov. 1, 1996.

Taking part in this fair will be companies from Jordan, Palestine, Algeria, Yemen, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, China, Vietnam, Pakistan, Malaysia, Turkey, Indonesia, Korea, Greece, Russia, in addition to French, Polish, Brazilian, Austrian, Bulgarian, Indian, Yugoslavian, Romanian, Hungarian and Egyptian companies which will have separate pavilions.

The minister said his country will allow all participating countries to display all kinds of products, including food, medicine and other items.

AMMAN (Petra) — The total number of persons benefiting from the Social Security Corporation (SSC) in Jordan is expected to reach 300,000 by the end of 1996, up from 281,335 at the end of 1995, according to SSC Director General Safwan Toukan Saturday.

Addressing a press conference marking the lapse of 18 years since the SSC law was enacted in Jordan, Dr. Toukan said the SSC covers old age, disability or death as well as occupational injuries and professional illnesses.

At present, institutions employing five workers and more are covered by the SSC, both in the private and the public sectors, as well as workers employed by universities, municipalities and regional and international organisations, Dr. Toukan said.

He indicated that according to figures at the end of last month, these workers are employed by 11,137 institutions in the private and the public sectors.

As to the SSC's revenues, he said that they come in the form of premiums paid by the beneficiaries adding that the SSC collected JD90 million at the end of 1995 and is expected to rise to JD95 million at the end of 1996.

Referring to the SSC's expenses, Dr. Toukan said that these are in the form of pension and medical expenses for occupational injuries noting that the SSC expects such expenses to rise to JD43 million at the end of 1996.

Dr. Toukan said that by the end of this year the SSC will have invested a total of JD864 million, up from JD747 million in 1995 in various banks, real estates, tourist businesses, and other projects.

As to future projects, he said that the SSC is currently conducting a feasibility study on creating and funding new projects with good economic returns like electric power generation and the creation of an industrial city.

Asia sees record build-up in petrochemical production

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Massive petrochemical plants with record production capacities are being planned for Asia as it races to become self-sufficient in oil-derived commodities essential for economic growth, industrial experts say.

Most of the plants will be expensive joint ventures involving multinationals and employing cutting-edge technology to cash in on a projected petrochemical boom in the region into the next century.

"Without question, Asia ranks as the fastest-growing producing and consuming region in the world for petrochemicals," said Marshall Frank, president of Chem Systems Inc., a U.S.-based petroleum consultant.

"In line with this distinction, the region finds itself on the forefront of technological advances in this industry, attracting the very latest and the very best technology has to offer," said Mr. Frank, who took part in an Asian petroleum conference here recently.

One of the mega-plants will be set up in Thailand, where Rayong Olefins, a consortium led by the Siam Cement Group, is pushing forward with the construction of a 600,000-tonne-per-year ethylene plant targeted for completion in 1999.

The typical maximum capacity of plants producing ethylene — the basic building block of petrochemicals used in plastic, packaging and fibre applications — has been 350,000-500,000 tonnes per year.

Two ethylene crackers are already operating in Thailand, expected to overtake Singapore as South East Asia's most important petrochemical centre by 2000, industry officials said.

Several other projects in Malaysia, Indonesia, India and China are extending the limits for ethylene capacity to the 600,000-750,000-tonne range, they said.

That ceiling would rise even further if U.S. oil giants Mobil and Exxon could meet ahead with plans to build an 800,000-tonne plant in Singapore.

"We need to put up world-class plants to achieve sustainable competitive edge and capitalise on the economies of scale," said Volker Trautz, Asia executive director of German chemical giant BASF A.G.

BASF plans to invest "several billion dollars" setting up integrated petrochemical mega-plants in China, India and Malaysia, said Mr. Trautz, whose company already has 20 chemical manufacturing plants in the region.

Another global chemicals player, the U.S.-based Dupont group, said it plans to invest \$1.5 billion on new plants in Asia in the next three to four years. It has invested two billion dollars so far in the region.

Mr. Frank said the trend toward larger plant capacity in Asia was limited to ethylene but would cover other major petrochemicals as well.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Jordan Free Markets Company offers 1.5m shares for public subscription

A JD5 million public shareholding company was registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Sept. 28, 1996 but the founders have only covered JD3.75 million of the capital and are offering JD1.25 million of the capital for public subscription.

The company, called the Jordanian Free Markets Company, aims at establishing, operating and investing in free markets at border crossings and at any area that the authorities approve of. It also aims at selling foreign imported goods and local products at these free markets in foreign and local currencies. The third direct objective listed in the announcement published by the company in the Arabic dailies was to treat all national products entering the free markets as products for exports to outside markets.

The main founders of the new company are: Royal Jordanian (JD 1,250,000), the Jordan Investment Corporation (JD 1 million), the Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JD 625,000), the Jordanian Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JD 125,000), the Free Zones Corporation (JD 125,000) and the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank (JD 100,000). The remaining seventeen founders are various private companies in the fields of insurance, shipping, engineering and general trade.

According to the announcement, a detailed study was conducted by the Jordan Investment Corporation and the capital was fixed in light of the investment cost which totalled JD5 million based on the following classification:

- 1- Buildings and other facilities JD1 million
- 2- Furniture JD0.6 million
- 3- Vehicles JD0.51 million
- 4- Air conditioning and heating system JD 0.52 million
- 5- Establishment costs JD60,000
- 6- Pre-operation expenses JD80,000
- 7- Intangible expenses JD230,000
- 8- Working capital JD2 million

Total investment cost JD5 million

Subscription will be open from Oct. 26 until Nov. 14, 1996 but the minimum purchase should be for 1,000 shares which carry a value of JD1 each. Only 50 per cent of the purchase amount should be paid upon subscription with the remaining amount to be paid over the coming five years (Al Ra'i + Al Dustour).

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"I've never caught a virus from a computer, but I've caught plenty of headaches!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Miles Argentin

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TYPE

NOOLC

YIFTON

LUFFIT

Answer: A

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: WAGER PIVOT FAMISH SLEIGH

Yesterday's Jumble: The bear company's banner year resulted in - HIGH SPIRITS

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
BANKING AND FINANCE - RESERVE
TELEPHONE: 401171 / 401173
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 16/10/1996

PAID 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	VALUE	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
252.000	200.000	ARAB BANK	13.3	1.44	2	100	242.00	242.00	0.00
1.200	980	ALBANK	7.5	0.00	43	10700	25.40	25.40	0.00
2.700	1.120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. CO.	9.0	0.00	3	235	1.00	1.00	0.00
5.400	4.280	THE BUILDING CO.	12.7	0.00	4	17865	130.00	130.00	0.00
1.500	880	JOR. OIL & GAS	5.3	7.00	10	22100	202.32	202.32	0.00
3.500	3.000	ARAB JOR. INV. CO.	10.7	0.00	1	1300	350.00	350.00	0.00
1.800	1.500	JOR. INV. CO.	12.0	0.00	2	745	62.3	62.3	0.00
1.400	1.000	PHILADELPHIA	6	0.00	5	1350	122.3	122.3	0.00
SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 186.88	CHNG: +0.10	71	103710	227814			
3.000	2.400	KARMOUS DESER.	9	0.00	1	200	470	470	0.00
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 120.23	CHNG: -0.28	1	200	470			
1.000	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.2	7.45	18	22552	36138	36138	0.00
4.080	4.680	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	10.0	0.00	2	2300	2748	2748	0.00
2.090	1.080	WATCO PETROLEUM	86.8	0.00	9	2500	2411.9	2411.9	0.00
1.280	1.400	JORDANIAN INTL. TRAD.	34.9	0.00	2	700	476	476	0.00
2.420	1.630	KID. EAST HOTELS	73.2	0.00	2	8188	36222	36222	0.00
3.900	3.130	ARAB INTL. TRAD.	13.9	0.00	2	4000	16660	16660	0.00
1.360	1.260	AMARA EDUCATION	9	0.00	4	1452	1883	1883	0.00
1.700	1.520	UNION LAND DEV.	8	0.00	8	9000	2758	2758	0.00
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 112.21	CHNG: -0.09	90	70518	108657			
3.770	3.000	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.7	3.04	27	11514	37498	37498	0.00
5.860	4.780	ARAB POTASH CO.	16.5	3.67	1	600	1365	1365	0.00
1.890	1.150	WATCO PETROLEUM	86.8	0.00	9	2500	2411.9	2411.9	0.00
8.120	6.400	JOR. WATERS & SEWER	8.9	3.40	4	1494	10309	10309	0.00
4.070	3.100	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	18.9	0.00	7	728	3157	3157	0.00
6.450	6.480	JOR. CEMENT CO.	7.5	4.13	2	1000	6052	6052	0.00
1.740	1.400	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	10	110150	7499	7499	0.00
1.000	1.210	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9.3	0.00	3	3300	3006	3006	0.00
1.980	1.630	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9.3	0.00	3	3300	3006	3006	0.00
1.980	1.630	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9.3	0.00	3	3300	3006	3006	0.00
3.280	1.380	UNION LAND DEV.	8	0.00	1	200	470	470	0.00
3.100	1.160	JOR. IND. SERVICES	17.3	0.00	14	8856	17141	17141	0.00
1.610	1.200	JOR. INV. CO.	12.0	0.00	2	745	62.3	62.3	0.00
2.440	1.750	IS - JAY HEAVY WEAR	24.7	0.00	25	11520	10618	10618	0.00
1.490	1.090	INTL. TOBACCO	26.4	0.00	10	4750	8320	8320	0.00
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 109.85	CHNG: -0.19	200	17001	184995			
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 146.72	CHNG: -0.02	362	344501	831386			

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
BANKING AND FINANCE - RESERVE
TELEPHONE: 401171 / 401173
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 16/10/1996

PAID 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	VALUE	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
300	200	JOR. TRADE PWD.	11.7	0.00	1	800	295	295	0.00
440	440	NACCO CONCRETE	0.00	0.00	27	10450	10839	10839	0.00
700	700	UNION DEV. SCI	0.00	0.00	6	3900	934	934	0.00
810	810	ARAB PTE INVEST.	70.8	0.00	2	10500	513	513	0.00
640	340	JOR. TRADE & SERV. JENCO	0	0.00	2	1000	400	400	0.00
910	150	ARAB FOOD & RES.	0	0.00	1	250	360	360	0.00
1.740	1.310	INTL. QUALITY	0	0.00	3	3200	4150	4150	0.00
2.050	200	NATL. TEXTILE	0	0.00	4	1250	115	115	0.00
1.100	1.000	NACCO CONCRETE	0.00	0.00	13	30005	1944	1944	0.00
1.100	1.100	UNION DEV. SCI	0.00	0.00	7	1050	480	480	0.00
880	610	NACCO CONCRETE	0.00	0.00	1	200	84	84	0.00
880	610	NACCO CONCRETE	0.00	0.00	1	200	84	84	0.00
750	380	UNION DEV. SCI	0.00	0.00	1	745	3762	3762	0.00
890	610	NACCO CONCRETE	0.00	0.00	1	200	84	84	0.00
890	610	NACCO CONCRETE	0.00	0.00	1	200	84	84	0.00
1.400	1.250	NACCO CONCRETE	0.00	0.00	30	48480	36834	36834	0.00
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 112	CHNG: 142185	84755					

* New 12 months low
* Listed during the past 12 months
* P/E ratio is 100 or more
* Negative P/E
* Earnings is zero or N/A for the most recent year

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English League tries to avert players' strike

LONDON (R) — English soccer officials made an 11th-hour bid to stop a strike by players in the first, second and third divisions Saturday.

The football league said they were ready to make a new offer to the players' union, the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), in a dispute over the income from the sale of television rights.

In return, the PFA said they would delay announcing the result of a strike ballot which they had planned to publish on Saturday.

The PFA balloted its members on the question of

a strike after the league decided to scrap a regulation that entitled the union to 10 per cent of any television deal.

PFA Chief Executive Gordon Taylor said he had agreed to a request by the football league to delay announcing the outcome of the ballot pending the new offer.

"It's an encouraging development but there is the worry that we've been asked to delay in the past and nothing has been forthcoming so we are a bit wary," he said. "We hope they're not crying wolf."

The football league board

is due to meet either over the weekend or on Monday and the new offer to the union is expected to be made after that.

"Dependent on that offer, we will either have formal talks with them in a bid to conclude an agreement or be forced to reconsider our position," said Taylor.

The league's television deal with Sky, for live coverage of matches, is worth 125 million pounds (\$198.5 million) over five years and the union would have received 2.5 million pounds (\$3.97 million) a year under the old regulation.

FIFA: Local authorities responsible for security

NEW YORK (AP) — Despite all the efforts by FIFA to improve safety at soccer matches, FIFA Secretary General Sepp Blatter said Friday security is still the responsibility of local authorities.

"It has nothing to do with the sport," Blatter told the Associated Press from FIFA's Zurich, Switzerland, headquarters. "If you have so many people move... For a match, then naturally danger is higher here than other places."

"But you cannot make it the responsibility of the sport. We must take ade-

quate measures but it must be the local authority that controls security."

Wednesday night's stampede at the Guatemala-Costa Rica World Cup qualifying match in Guatemala City killed 84. It was the second time this year that fans have been killed at a soccer match and the fourth time in the last five years. Tragedies have struck at a game. In the last 10 years, 358 have been known killed in seven incidents, from Libya to Nepal, from Africa to England.

Italian soccer official criticises rough play

ROME (R) — The head of the Italian Soccer Players' Association has appealed to referees to crack down on rough play and asked players to stop faking after England's Paul Ince was sent off for a foul television showed he did not commit.

In a letter to Italy's 2,600 professional players, Sergio Campana said too many of them played "violently...and faked (fouls), which should never be part of a player's repertoire and testify to an alarming lack of nerve and maturity."

Campana said referees were inconsistent in their punishment of rough play. "The referees must be more balanced...One Sunday they don't punish rough play, the next one...They pull out 15 red cards," he said.

"More attention must be paid to certain episodes...I really don't want to believe that referees in Serie A turn a blind eye to some incidents," Campana added.

Rough play has characterized several Serie A matches this season and many commentators have complained that it was not being punished properly.

Last Sunday England midfielder Ince was sent off during Internazionale's match against Piacenza after being accused of hitting midfielder Giampietro Piovani on the head during a pause in play.

But television replays clearly showed that Ince had only waved his hand at Piovani, who fell to the ground writhing in apparent pain. Piovani later admitted he had faked the foul.

The league's disciplinary commission on Friday reduced to one day a two-match ban that followed the sending-off, saying Ince had not sought to inflict harm and Piovani was not hurt in the incident.

Ince will miss Sunday's main match when league leaders Inter travel to Turin to take on European champions Juventus. He will be replaced by Swiss international Ciriaco Sforza.

German fans show off knowledge of game as Pacers edge Sonics

BERLIN (AP) — Reggie Miller's heroics may have spoiled Detlef Schrempf's homecoming Friday in Berlin, but the Sonics' forward still liked what he saw.

Miller poured in 37 points and nailed a 3-pointer with 3 seconds left to lift Indiana past Seattle in their first of two games on their Euro '96 tour. Their other stop is Sunday in Seville, Spain.

Schrempf scored 14 points for the Sonics and drew tremendous cheers from a crowd of 10,500 that packed the arena, in part, to see the National Basketball Association's only German star.

Afterwards, the 11-year-veteran said he noticed a big difference in German fans from when he left his homeland as a teenager to play for Centralia High School in Washington, before advancing to a NBA career.

"When I left, nobody really knew anything about basketball," said Schrempf, 33. But that wasn't the case Friday night.

As Reggie Miller poured in 13 points down the stretch for the pacers to thwart a Sonics' rally, some spectators began shouting "Miller time" when one of his five 3-pointers for the night ripped the net.

Seattle guard Gary Payton's turnaround jumper with 28 seconds to play rolled out of the rim, failing to snap a 95-95 tie, but the German fans knew what the Sonics had to do.

"Defense," they roared in English.

Their cheers for their adopted team, due to home-boy Schrempf's presence, didn't affect Miller. Despite Sonics' guard Craig Ehlo's hand in his face, he drained the gamewinner from the corner.

But then the shooting guard drew almost as loud

of cheers from the German fans as schrempf during the introductions.

"It was impressive to see the applause and whistling. The fans showed they know basketball and that level of knowledge is increasing every year," Miller said.

Despite sightseeing and some disco visits by both teams, Miller still had enough free time to announce his all-time trash-talking starting five.

"Gary Payton at point guard, Reggie Miller at the two, Scottie Pippen at small forward, Charles Barkley — and at center you have to go back in time to wilt chamberlain," Miller said.

With interest in the NBA exploding after Dream Team I played in Barcelona, Schrempf has become a household name in Germany. He was swarmed by German media during his entire stay.

That could explain why the two-time winner of the NBA's best sixth-man award was only 2-for-9 from the field Friday night.

"I wasn't nervous, but then I haven't been getting much sleep either," Schrempf said.

While Miller said the goal in beating last year's NBA finalist was to prove the pacers are one of the league's premier clubs, the Sonics learned a different lesson.

"They're not the same team without Shawn Kemp."

"This game made us realize how much we miss Shawn Kemp. We need his presence and physical contribution," Sonics' coach George Karl said.

The forward, who is reportedly unhappy over his salary, has promised Sonic officials he will end his boycott of the pre-season and rejoin the team when they return to Seattle.

New York traffic stops Braves — can the Yankees?

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Yankees can only hope they slow down the Atlanta Braves as effectively as the New York traffic did Friday.

The Braves were more than two hours late for practice for the scheduled but storm-threatened World Series opener, arriving at about 7:40 for a scheduled 5:30 practice.

What was the holdup? "Just traffic. We spent over three hours on the bus," said Atlanta manager Bobby Cox.

"We just flew to the west coast, that's all," joked right-hander John Smoltz. Cox's choice for the game 1 pitcher — at least if game 1 actually gets played Saturday.

Any New Yorker — or perhaps a real commissioner of baseball — could have told the Braves they were not leaving Atlanta early enough or allowing enough time to get from Newark airport across the river in New Jersey to their Manhattan hotel and then up through Harlem to Yankee Stadium in the Bronx at rush hour.

"Obviously things could have gone a little smoother," said Smoltz.

"A lot of guys were getting real impatient, but at the same time knowing that hopefully we're going to play tomorrow will make all this not that important."

"We weren't going to miss this workout for anything," said Cox. "They were all anxious to get here, take ground balls and hit here for the first time."

The first glimpse of historic Yankee Stadium was a lift after all the street hassles.

"It was a spectacular sight," said Cox, a former Yankee.

"Yankee Stadium has that air about it. It's got a lot of history about it. They (the players) were anxious just to see the ballpark itself. It was quite a sight coming in tonight from the roadway, with the lights on and the sign saying 'Yankee Stadium,' said Cox.

"You start thinking about these things during the middle of the season, actually. You start looking, oh boy, if the Yankees get in, we could get in, wouldn't that be great."

History of World Series results

*1995 — Atlanta (NL) 4, Cleveland (AL) 2	*1948 — Cleveland (AL) 4, Boston (NL) 2
*1994 — cancelled due to players strike	*1947 — New York (AL) 4, Brooklyn (NL) 3
*1993 — Toronto (AL) 4, Philadelphia (NL) 2	*1946 — St. Louis (NL) 4, Boston (AL) 3
*1992 — Toronto (AL) 4, Atlanta (NL) 2	*1945 — Detroit (AL) 4, Chicago (NL) 3
*1991 — Minnesota (AL) 4, Atlanta (NL) 3	*1944 — St. Louis (NL) 4, St. Louis (AL) 2
*1990 — Cincinnati (NL) 4, Oakland (AL) 0	*1943 — New York (AL) 4, St. Louis (NL) 1
*1989 — Oakland (AL) 4, San Francisco (NL) 0	*1942 — St. Louis (NL) 4, New York (AL) 1
*1988 — Los Angeles (NL) 4, Oakland (AL) 1	*1941 — New York (AL) 4, Brooklyn (NL) 1
*1987 — Minnesota (AL) 4, St. Louis (NL) 3	*1940 — Cincinnati (NL) 4, Detroit (AL) 3
*1986 — New York (NL) 4, Boston (AL) 3	*1939 — New York (AL) 4, Cincinnati (NL) 0
*1985 — Kansas City (AL) 4, St. Louis (NL) 3	*1938 — New York (AL) 4, Chicago (NL) 0
*1984 — Detroit (AL) 4, San Diego (NL) 1	*1937 — New York (AL) 4, New York (NL) 1
*1983 — Baltimore (AL) 4, Philadelphia (NL) 1	*1936 — New York (AL) 4, New York (NL) 2
*1982 — St. Louis (NL) 4, Milwaukee (AL) 3	*1935 — Detroit (AL) 4, Chicago (NL) 2
*1981 — Los Angeles (NL) 4, New York (AL) 2	*1934 — St. Louis (NL) 4, Detroit (AL) 3
*1980 — Philadelphia (NL) 4, Kansas City (AL) 2	*1933 — New York (NL) 4, Washington (AL) 1
*1979 — Pittsburgh (NL) 4, Baltimore (AL) 3	*1932 — New York (AL) 4, Chicago (NL) 0
*1978 — New York (AL) 4, Los Angeles (NL) 2	*1931 — St. Louis (NL) 4, Philadelphia (AL) 3
*1977 — New York (AL) 4, Los Angeles (NL) 2	*1930 — Philadelphia (AL) 4, St. Louis (NL) 2
*1976 — Cincinnati (NL) 4, New York (AL) 0	*1929 — Philadelphia (AL) 4, Chicago (NL) 1
*1975 — Cincinnati (NL) 4, Boston (AL) 3	*1928 — New York (AL) 4, St. Louis (NL) 0
*1974 — Oakland (AL) 4, Los Angeles (NL) 1	*1927 — New York (AL) 4, Pittsburgh (NL) 0
*1973 — Oakland (AL) 4, New York (NL) 3	*1926 — St. Louis (NL) 4, New York (AL) 3
*1972 — Oakland (AL) 4, Cincinnati (NL) 3	*1925 — Pittsburgh (NL) 4, Washington (AL) 3
*1971 — Pittsburgh (NL) 4, Baltimore (AL) 3	*1924 — Washington (AL) 4, New York (NL) 3
*1970 — Baltimore (AL) 4, Cincinnati (NL) 1	*1923 — New York (AL) 4, New York (NL) 2
*1969 — New York (NL) 4, Baltimore (AL) 1	*1922 — New York (AL) 4, New York (AL) 0, One Tie
*1968 — Detroit (AL) 4, St. Louis (NL) 3	*1921 — New York (NL) 5, New York (AL) 3
*1967 — St. Louis (NL) 4, Boston (AL) 3	*1920 — Cleveland (AL) 5, Brooklyn (NL) 2
*1966 — Baltimore (AL) 4, Los Angeles (NL) 0	*1919 — Cincinnati (NL) 5, Chicago (AL) 3
*1965 — Los Angeles (NL) 4, Minnesota (AL) 3	*1918 — Boston (AL) 4, Chicago (NL) 2
*1964 — St. Louis (NL) 4, New York (AL) 3	*1917 — Chicago (AL) 4, New York (NL) 2
*1963 — Los Angeles (NL) 4, New York (AL) 0	*1916 — Boston (AL) 4, Brooklyn (NL) 1
*1962 — New York (AL) 4, San Francisco (NL) 3	*1915 — Boston (AL) 4, Philadelphia (NL) 1
*1961 — New York (AL) 4, Cincinnati (NL) 1	*1914 — Boston (NL) 4, Philadelphia (AL) 0
*1960 — Pittsburgh (NL) 4, New York (AL) 3	*1913 — Philadelphia (AL) 4, New York (NL) 1
*1959 — Los Angeles (NL) 4, Chicago (AL) 2	*1912 — Boston (AL) 4, New York (NL) 3, One Tie
*1958 — New York (AL) 4, Milwaukee (NL) 3	*1911 — Philadelphia (AL) 4, New York (NL) 2
*1957 — Milwaukee (NL) 4, New York (AL) 3	*1910 — Philadelphia (AL) 4, Chicago (NL) 1
*1956 — New York (NL) 4, Brooklyn (NL) 3	*1909 — Pittsburgh (NL) 4, Detroit (AL) 3
*1955 — Brooklyn (NL) 4, New York (AL) 3	*1908 — Chicago (NL) 4, Detroit (AL) 1
*1954 — New York (NL) 4, Cleveland (AL) 0	*1907 — Chicago (NL) 4, Detroit (AL) 0, One Tie
*1953 — New York (AL) 4, Brooklyn (NL) 2	*1906 — Chicago (NL) 4, Detroit (NL) 2
*1952 — New York (AL) 4, Brooklyn (NL) 3	*1905 — New York (NL) 4, Philadelphia (AL) 1
*1951 — New York (AL) 4, New York (NL) 2	*1904 — No Series
*1950 — New York (AL) 4, Philadelphia (NL) 0	*1903 — Boston (AL) 5, Pittsburgh (NL) 3
*1949 — New York (AL) 4, Brooklyn (NL) 1	

"It wouldn't matter if we were in Baltimore, that's a great ballpark, too, but almost unanimously I think everybody really wanted to come to New York and play in Yankee Stadium."

Cox would not say what effect a rainout would have on his tentative pitching rotation of Smoltz, Denny Neagle, Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, nor would he give his choice for the designated hitter in this American League city.

"I told the pitchers what the rotation will be. I told them if it rains then I'll rethink it. That's as far as I've gotten."

The Braves come in with the confidence of defending world series champions who just pounded the St. Louis

Cardinals in the National League championship series with 14-0 and 15-0 victories in game 5 and the deciding game 7 sandwiched around a 3-1 win.

"Momentum is your pitching, I think," said Cox.

"Our bats have really come to life and I don't know why we would stop hitting now," said Cox.

As for the DH, or other lineup moves, he said, "I've got some options. I want to talk to some scouts, look at some stats. The only thing I've really been paying attention to the last week has been the Cardinals."

Despite having only one day off, he said, "we're in good shape. None of the pitchers have pitched on less than four days' rest."

most of them on six."

"We don't have a lot of nagging injuries that would take three or four days. We do have a couple things that two days would probably help instead of one. But everybody we've got on the club right now can go to the post."

Smoltz conceded that having the home field has been a big advantage in recent world series, "especially here with the fans they have, the animosity they have towards the visiting team. You have to sneak a game out."

But in the end, he said, "you have to execute no matter where you're at."

Smoltz compiled a 24-8 record and led the major leagues in wins and strike-

outs (276) this season. He led the NL in innings pitched (253.2) and winning percentage (.750). He has started three games in post-season this year and won all three.

Smoltz's likely National League Cy Young award this year added to those of Maddux and Glavine would give the Braves staff six best-pitcher prizes. The Yankees' game 1 starter, Andy Pettitte, is expected to win the award this year in the American League.

"I know the Yankees have an excellent pitching staff as well as the Braves so I think these (games) are going to be a little tight," said Cox.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Zagreb to miss Breeders' Cup

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Derby winner Zagreb will miss the Breeders' Cup turf race in Toronto next Saturday because of a slight head cold trainer Dermot Weld said on Saturday. Asked about a possible sale to Japan, he said: "It's an open secret there has been plenty of interest in Zagreb from Japan, but currently there isn't a firm offer on the table." Zagreb ran earlier this month in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris but finished only 13th behind Heliasso.

Amokachi in traffic accident

ISTANBUL (R) — Nigerian World Cup footballer Daniel Amokachi escaped unhurt when his car struck a tree in the early hours of Saturday morning, Turkish media said. The state-run Anatolian news agency said the two front tyres of Amokachi's brand-new car suddenly burst, causing the crash. Amokachi, who plays for Istanbul club Besiktas, scored in this year's Olympic final to help Nigeria beat Argentina 3-2 and win the title.

Melbourne bids for Commonwealth 2006

SYDNEY (AP) — Melbourne, which hosted the Olympic Games in 1956, was Friday named as Australia's candidate to host the Commonwealth Games in 2006. Australia's second-largest city, which failed in its bid to host the 1996 Olympics, beat Brisbane — the 1982 venue — and Darwin for the candidacy. Other cities expected to bid for the right to host the Games include Wellington, New Zealand; Durban, South Africa; and Bridgetown, Barbados. A decision on the venue will be made in 1999. The 1998 Games will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the 2002 Games in Manchester, England.

Prinosil reaches Czech indoor final

OSTRAVA, Czech republic (R) — Germany's David Prinosil ended rising British star Tim Henman's bid for his first ATP Tour victory Saturday with a 6-4 6-3 win in the semifinals of the \$475,000 Czech Indoor Open.

Seventh seed Henman, who had not lost a set all week, looked shaky on his groundstrokes but stayed in the match with a strong serve, firing seven of his 11 aces in the first set.

But in the 10th game Henman's serve failed him and he double faulted to give the German world number 58 three break points.

Henman fought back with a service winner and then an ace but Prinosil blasted a brilliant return to take the point and the set.

Henman fought back to gain two break points of his own in the third game but failed to convert them.

Prinosil then went a break up after Henman once again double faulted.

In Sunday's final Prinosil will face the winner of the second semifinal between Czechs Martin Damm and Petr Korda.



Germany's David Prinosil celebrates his victory at the semifinal match of the Czech Indoor tennis tournament in Ostrava (Reuters photo)

TODAY	CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA Emilio Estevez & Dennis Leary ... in JUDGEMENT NIGHT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:699238 PLAZA The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zakiin NASER 56 (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00	CINEMA TEL:677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" Demi Moore & Gary Oldman ... in THE SCARLET LETTER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" FRENCH KISS at 6:30 p.m HEAT at 3:30 & 8:45 p.m	AMMOON THEATRE & CINEMAA TEL: 618274 - 618275 Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimah & Hussein Tubishat Play starts 8:30 p.m.	NABIL & HISHAM'S THEATRE TEL: 625155 PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155 - 640155
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Conference urges stop to gender testing

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Women sports officials urged the IOC Friday to halt gender verification tests during the Olympic Games.

The request was among the resolutions adopted at the close of the World Conference on Women and Sport. The conference, organised by the International Olympic Committee, drew more than 220 delegates from 96 countries.

Many delegates complained that only women athletes were subjected to the gender tests.

Under current IOC rules, all women athletes are required to undergo gender screening tests before competing in the Olympics. They must qualify under the IOC definition of "female" for Olympic competitions.

Supervised by the IOC medical commission, the test usually involves a screening of the athlete's saliva. If the test produces any doubt about the competitor's gender, the IOC

can order a physical exam to be carried out by a gynaecologist.

Athletes who already have a valid femininity certificate issued by the IOC commission are exempted from the tests.

In other resolutions, the conference said the Olympic ideal can't be fully realised "without, and until there is, equality for women within the Olympic movement."

The delegates said the IOC, international federations and national Olympic committees should take gender equality into consideration in their policies and programmes.

The final statement urged the IOC to work toward attaining an equal number of events for women and men on the Olympic programme.

The conference was chaired by Anita Defrantz of the United States, a former Olympic rower who is an executive board member of the IOC.



Jennifer Capriati

Majoli advances as Capriati fails

ZURICH (R) — Second seed Iva Majoli and fourth seed Jana Novotna cruised into the semifinals of the European Indoor Championship on Friday with convincing straight set wins.

Novotna, the world number eight, advanced with a 6-4 6-2 win over Jennifer Capriati, denying the American her first semifinal appearance in three years.

Capriati, who has spent the last two years battling back from drug abuse and injury problems, has not made the last four of a tournament since reaching the finals of the Canadian Open in 1993.

Bothered by tendinitis in her right elbow, the American struggled with her serve the entire match holding it only once.

On the other side of the net, Novotna was also having trouble as Capriati broke her five times.

"It was a very strange match," said Novotna. "I thought maybe something was wrong with her arm because she wasn't hitting the ball as hard as she usually does."

After sitting out all of last season, Capriati had her return to competition earlier this year spoiled by Novotna, the Czech knocking her out of the quarter-

finals in Essen.

"I just wasn't going for it like I was in my earlier matches," said Capriati, the 1992 Olympic champion. "I was hesitant and she took advantage of it."

Novotna will meet Majoli, ranked six in the world, in one of the semifinals. Majoli, the second seed and defending European indoor champion, earned her place with a 6-3 7-6 win over sixth seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands.

Shilton stays 4 short of elusive 1,000th appearance

LONDON (R) — Former England goalkeeper Peter Shilton's hopes of moving towards his 1,000th league appearance were thwarted by West Ham on Friday.

Shilton, 47, who has made 996 league appearances since his debut for Leicester in 1966, was hoping to make his first since May 1995, when he played for Bolton, in Cambridge United's division three match against Rochdale on Saturday.

Shilton, now the third choice goalkeeper at West Ham, had been given permission to play for Cambridge, but was recalled to West Ham by manager Harry Redknapp because reserve goalie Australian Steve Maunton injured himself in training on Friday.

Shilton, who made 125 appearances for England, has played for Leicester, Stoke, Nottingham Forest, Southampton, Derby, Plymouth and Bolton during his long career. His 18-year son Sam is a midfielder at Coventry.

Stuttgart held to goalless draw

BONN (R) — Bundesliga leaders VfB Stuttgart were held to a 0-0 draw at close rivals Bayer Leverkusen on Friday.

Stuttgart, on 24 points, are now a point clear of Leverkusen and Bayern Munich, who could go top on Sunday if they win their home match against fourth-placed Borussia Dortmund.

Bulgarian Krassimir Balakov almost put Stuttgart ahead in the sixth minute with a thundering shot from 20 metres which Leverkusen goalkeeper Dirk Heinen only just managed to tip over the bar.

But Stuttgart were largely disappointing, despite the return after injury of Croatian midfielder Zvonimir Soldo and defender Thomas Schneider.

Leverkusen's best effort came in the 19th minute when Paulo Sergio's shot from 25 metres was turned round the post by Stuttgart's Austrian goalkeeper Franz Wohlfahrt.



VfB Stuttgart's Sebastien Fournier (L) flies through the air, when he is fouled by Bayer Leverkusen's Paulo Sergio during a German first division soccer match in Leverkusen. The match ended 0-0 (Reuters photo)

"Stuttgart were definitely the stronger side in the first half, but then we increased the pressure and had the

better chances," said Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum.

In Friday's other Bundesliga match, mid-table Bochum and 1860 Munich drew 2-2.

Wilkins' NBA return on hold over Greek contract dispute

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (R) — The return of Dominique Wilkins to the National Basketball Association was put on hold pending the outcome of a contract dispute with his former Greek league team.

Wilkins, known as "the human highlight film" during a stellar career primarily with the Atlanta Hawks, earlier this month signed as a free agent with the San Antonio Spurs after a year away from the NBA.

But the NBA's eighth all-time leading scorer will not be allowed to resume playing for his new club until the dispute over his rights is resolved in an arbitration hearing next week in London.

Wilkins played in Greece last season, leading the Greek team Panathinaikos to the European Cup Championship. He signed a one-year contract with the Spurs on October 3, but the Greek team is claiming Wilkins is still under contract with them.

The Spurs are counting on the 36-year-old Wilkins to replace forward Chuck Person, who will undergo surgery on his ailing back next Wednesday and be out of action for two to three months.

Wilkins averaged 16.3 points and 5.3 rebounds in three pre-season games for San Antonio, but was forced to the sidelines by the dispute with the Greek club, missing

Thursday's game against New York.

An All-Star for nine consecutive seasons from 1986 to 1994, Wilkins last played in the NBA for the Boston Celtics in the 1994-95 season.

Over his 984 career NBA games with Boston, the Los Angeles Clippers and the Hawks, Wilkins averaged 25.8 points, 6.8 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 1.36 steals per game. His 25,389 points is eighth on the all-time list and would be tops among active players if he is allowed to play for the Spurs.

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Clinton tells Hariri U.S. aid contingent on peace process

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton has expressed support for U.S. help in rebuilding war-torn Lebanon but said improvements must first be made in the tattered Middle East peace process.

Mr. Clinton met Friday with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri at the White House. Afterwards, and without mentioning the presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon, the president said he looked forward "to supporting a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East" that supports Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and right to be free of foreign forces.

"Let me say that I think

that, as a practical matter, the whole peace process needs to show some movement again before we can expect much progress on the Lebanese front," the president said.

Responding to questions later, White House officials said the United States is not yet ready to lift a travel ban to Lebanon imposed a decade ago out of concern that American business executives, journalists and others might be kidnapped or harmed.

David Johnson, a spokesman for the National Security Council, said the United States would like to lift the ban so that Americans, especially

Lebanese Americans and business people, can travel to the country.

Mr. Hariri said Mr. Clinton told him that "the peace process needs to have a happy landing" before further progress can be made.

"I felt from the president that he cares for Lebanon; I felt this deeply," the prime minister said. "And he will do what he can to assist Lebanon in the reconstruction process. I felt the president is very keen to see the peace process going along."

Mr. Clinton said he is "somewhat encouraged" by reports of progress at the current talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

"If we can get the whole thing moving again, that's the best thing for Lebanon; we're working on it," Mr. Clinton said.

White House officials separately said they would be sending out invitations to the near future to foreign governments to attend a pledging conference here aimed at raising funds for the reconstruction effort.

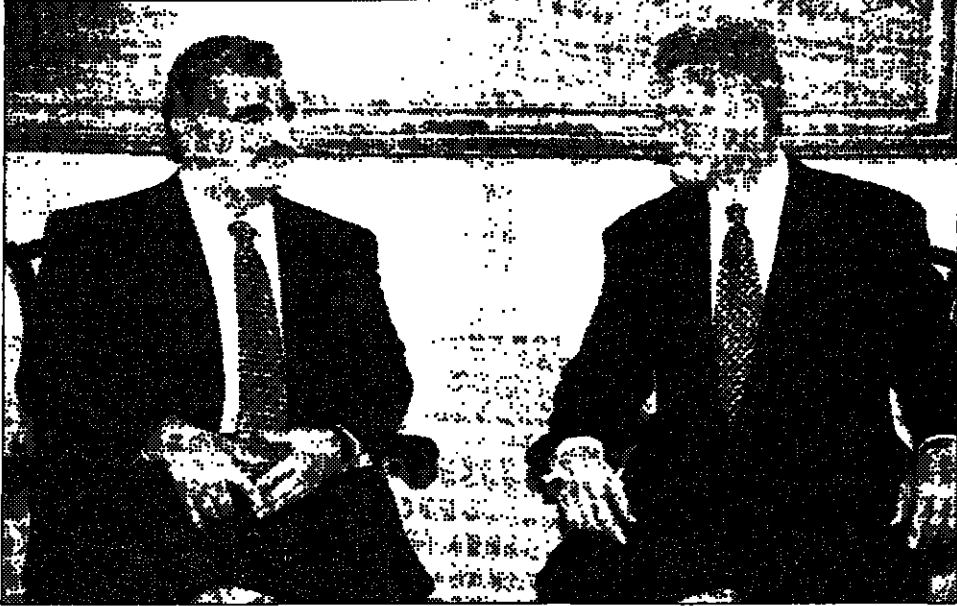
Dubbed "friends of Lebanon," the effort would help finance Mr. Hariri's plan for a \$5 billion international aid package to cover the cost of rebuilding infrastructure destroyed in the 1975-1990 war.

White House officials said that a review of the travel ban on Lebanon would come in February and hinted that there was interest on Washington's part in allowing U.S. businessmen travel without restriction to Lebanon but only if their security could be ensured.

Under current regulations, U.S. citizens must ask for special permission from the U.S. government to travel to Lebanon, Iraq and Libya.

Washington slapped the restriction on travel in 1986 during a wave of hostage-taking by anti-American groups.

The use of a U.S. passport in those countries without the required validation may be considered a violation of U.S. law and may be punishable by a fine or imprisonment.



U.S. President Bill Clinton and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri at the White House on Friday (Reuters photo)

Ekeus arrives in Iraq for further arms talks

BAGHDAD (R) — Chief U.N. weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus arrived in Baghdad on Saturday for talks with Iraqi officials on outstanding disarmament issues, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

INA gave no further details. Mr. Ekeus was not available for comment as his Iraqi hosts took him to an undisclosed destination.

The visit by the Swedish head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) dealing with Iraq is the latest in a series of missions by international arms experts to rid Baghdad of weapons of mass destruction under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire.

Mr. Ekeus would be seeking proof of Iraq's claims to have done everything relevant to the disposal of proscribed items and materials.

He is expected to hold talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Oil Minister Amr Rasheed, the

former chairman of Iraq's Military Industrialisation Commission during his three-day visit.

Iraq gave Mr. Ekeus' deputy Charles Duelfer, who was in Baghdad this month, nine letters attempting to clarify its disclosure of banned weapons after the U.N. official said Iraq's original declarations were flawed and incomplete.

Mr. Ekeus told reporters in Bahrain his talks with Iraqi officials would help him assess his team's work over the last three months and set goals. Both sides agreed on the routine visit in June.

Iraq admits that it has (arms) not accounted for...but they said these items were destroyed unilaterally and in that sense they were accounted for.

"Our programme is now to verify that the destruction indeed took place," Mr. Ekeus said on Friday.

Asked how many missiles Iraq

might be hiding, Mr. Ekeus replied: "I said six to 16. We are trying to narrow the numbers now."

"We told the Security Council that we felt the dialogue on the political level has been fruitful...so we welcome that dialogue and we hope for tangible results," Mr. Ekeus said.

Iraq is seeking an all-clear from Mr. Ekeus, a key condition for allowing it free oil exports. But the envoy in a report this month said his commission could not yet account for small but significant amounts of prohibited items.

"It is a real matter of life and death for the states in the region, and therefore we cannot rest until we have accounted for them," he added.

Mr. Ekeus said in Bahrain 48 Iraqi missiles were handed over and destroyed under U.N. supervision after the Gulf war.

Bosnia Serbs agree to work with Muslims and Croats

BANJA LUKA (R) — Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic on Saturday pledged reluctant respect for Bosnia's integrity and to work with Muslims and Croats in the country's post-war government.

She told the inaugural session of the new Bosnian Serb parliament in Banja Luka that "we are not entirely independent, that our sovereignty is limited and that we are obliged to abide by what has been signed."

Ms. Plavsic, heard by international mediators, said Serbs were being forced "to live within a state which is not to our liking."

Under the peace agreement reached almost a year ago, Bosnia has been divided into two loosely linked halves, a Bosnian Serb republic and a Muslim-Croat federation which regard each other with mistrust.

Despite the Bosnian Serbs' failure to win independence, Ms. Plavsic hailed "the beginning of a new era in (Serb) statehood."

Muslim members of the Bosnian Serb parliament refused to swear an oath of office but joined their former foes in a minute of silence for the 200,000 dead of the Bosnian war.

Fourteen of the 18

Muslims elected to the assembly and a Croat deputy left the session while Serbs took the oath expressing loyalty to the Bosnian Serb Republic and to the Christian religion.

They returned to listen to Ms. Plavsic's speech, which marked a significant step forward to the creation of joint institutions.

Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb member of the collective Bosnian presidency, also swore his oath of office on Saturday which he had previously resisted doing.

Mr. Krajisnik, retiring speaker of the parliament, said Muslims who did not want to take the oath could refer it to the assembly's judicial committee which would issue a binding decision on the legality of its wording.

The Banja Luka building where the parliament met was hung with crucifixes and Serbian Orthodox clergy sat with Bosnian Serb leaders during the opening ceremony.

Despite their objections to the heavy religious symbolism, the Muslims stood with Serb deputies when they sang the Serb nationalist hymn "God give us justice."

The religious ceremony was also boycotted by Bosnian Serb former com-

munist deputies who refused to kiss the cross or receive blessing from the Orthodox metropolitan.

When he called the minute's silence, Mr. Krajisnik said it was in memory of all the dead of the 3-1/2 year war, the great majority of whom were Muslims.

The Serb parliament was elected in September at the same time as a national assembly which has its seat in Sarajevo and represents all three Bosnian national communities.

Thousands of Muslims and Croats were driven out of the Banja Luka area of northern Bosnia by Serb ethnic cleansing during the war and several of Bosnia's oldest mosques were blown up.

The site of one historic mosque was bulldozed this week in an apparent attempt to intimidate Muslim deputies before the parliament session.

Nationalist Serbs demanding full independence for the Bosnian Serb Republic have been reluctant to cooperate with international efforts to construct post-war inter-ethnic institutions.

Ms. Plavsic said on Friday that Bosnian Serbs would not hold municipal elections mediators have called in Bosnia on Nov. 23-24.

Iraq says Kuwaitis fired on research vessel

BAGHDAD (R) — Baghdad accused Kuwait on Saturday of firing at an Iraqi research vessel of Basra University sailing in Iraq's territorial waters.

Government newspapers said Kuwait's interception of the Iraqi vessel was "to create a state of tension in the region" and urged the emirate not to undertake such "aggressive actions" in the future.

The report, based on an Iraqi News Agency (INA) dispatch from New York, said Iraq's U.N. Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun sent a letter to the Secretary-General Boutros Ghali informing him of the incident.

"Two Kuwaiti boats intercepted and fired at a boat belonging to the Maritime Research Centre of Basra University as it was conducting a survey of the marine wealth in Iraq's territorial waters," the report said.

"The Iraqi envoy (at the U.N.) has asked the secretary-general to interfere to put an end to such aggressive practices which contravene the U.N. Charter and the international law and have become frequent recently," it added.



HEADED FOR FRONT: Afghan Taliban militia fighters drive a tank through the Afghan capital on their way to the north of the country on Saturday (Reuters photo)

Chirac gets hero's welcome in Syria

DAMASCUS (Agencies)

French President Jacques Chirac arrived in Syria to a tumultuous welcome on Saturday at the start of a delicate Middle East tour aimed at increasing European influence on a faltering peace process.

More than 20,000 people, including many schoolchildren given half a day off, turned out to cheer Mr. Chirac and President Hafez Al Assad at Damascus airport in a display of warmth for a leader hailed by the official Syrian press as "one of the best friends of the Arabs."

Omnipresent security men joined the crowd in strewing rose petals in Mr. Chirac's path in a traditional welcome ceremony, and young girls put a garland of white carnations around his neck.

Flag-waving, chanting Syrians, fired up by a band playing Beethoven's Ode to Joy, the European Union (EU) anthem, lined the route through the city to greet the first French president to visit Syria since 1984.

French officials said Mr. Chirac would act as a "messenger of peace," urging leaders on his six-day tour to resume peace negotiations and not allow the opportunity for peace to slip away, with a risk of a new regional war.

Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Syria welcomed a French role in Middle East peacemaking, which would complement, not substitute, the United States' role.

The United States and Israel have signalled their reluctance about any political role for France and the EU in the peace process, of which the EU is the main

paymasters.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher wrote to his EU counterparts in early October urging them to stay out of the Middle East negotiations, French officials said.

Mr. Chirac was due to hold a first round of talks with Mr. Assad and attend a state dinner on Saturday night, with longer talks and a joint news conference on Sunday. On Monday he goes to Israel and the Palestinian territories, then to Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt.

A senior French official said an agreement ending a festering dispute over repayment of Syria's 1.3 billion franc (\$250 million) debt to France would be signed during Mr. Chirac's visit, opening the way for new state-guaranteed French investment in Syria and increased trade.

Meanwhile, the speaker of the Israeli parliament, Dan Tichon, said Saturday he will boycott the welcoming ceremony for President Chirac when he arrives in Israel, because Mr. Chirac is not visiting parliament.

The visitor is, however, to address the Palestinian legislative council, and will be the first head of state to do so.

Mr. Tichon told the Associated Press he will boycott the welcoming ceremony for Mr. Chirac at the presidential residence.

"It is intolerable that the president of such an important European country should boycott the Israeli legislature even when he was told that every foreign representative visiting Israel calls at the Knesset," Mr. Tichon said.

Clinton retains big lead over Dole

WASHINGTON (AFP)

President Bill Clinton maintained a lead of more than 20 points over Republican rival Bob Dole in two polls taken following the latest debate and released Saturday.

A Newsweek survey found Mr. Clinton leading 52 to 29 per cent over Mr. Dole, with Reform Party candidate Ross Perot favoured by eight per cent. A separate CNN-USA Today poll placed Mr. Clinton's lead at 55 to 32 per cent, with eight per cent for Mr. Perot.

The Newsweek survey also found a majority of people object to campaign contributions from big corporations and foreign donors, but that only 34 per cent believed Mr. Clinton's acceptance of funds from a wealthy Indonesian family were "very important."

A total of 77 per cent said they believed contributions from big companies, unions and other interests buy too much influence in Washington, and 71 per cent objected to contributions from wealthy foreign interests.

Both polls were taken after Wednesday's presidential debate in San Diego, which according to other surveys was won by Mr. Clinton.

Despite Mr. Dole's drive to focus on Mr. Clinton's ethics and character, Newsweek found 48 per cent of respondents said Mr. Clinton has the better personal character to be president to 36 per cent for Mr. Dole. Fifty-nine per cent said Mr. Dole was more "negative or nasty" in the campaign.

U.S. commanders ignored Iraqi chemical arms threat — report

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. military commanders during the Gulf war ignored data from sensitive detection equipment that unprotected U.S. troops were exposed to chemicals, according to a report Saturday.

The New York Times, citing a Czech army source, said Czech detection teams operating in northern Saudi Arabia in 1991 were convinced that nerve gas detected in the early days of the conflict came from Iraqi chemical plants that the U.S. forces had bombed.

Combat logs that U.S. officers compiled, however, show the U.S. military leaders ignored the Czech warnings that low levels of nerve and mustard gas had been detected in the vicinity of U.S. troops, the paper said.

"We were immediately putting on our suits and gas masks, while the Americans were walking around without their masks — without any of the equipment," said Vaclav Hlavac, a retired Czech army officer.

Mr. Hlavac said in an interview that the nerve gas and blister agent was first detected on Jan. 19, 1991, just after the war began.

"The Americans thought

our chemists were crazy, so our chemists took the Americans to their laboratories to prove to the Americans what they had detected," Mr. Hlavac told the paper.

Eventually the Americans acknowledged that they had also detected some chemical agents, he said.

"After about half a day, one of the American officers confirmed that, yes, we measured the chemicals, but he said that the Americans didn't want to sound an alarm because there were only low levels of the chemicals and it would cause panic among the soldiers," Mr. Hlavac told the newspaper.

The Pentagon announced earlier this month an indefinite delay in producing an official estimate of the number of U.S. troops possibly exposed to Iraqi chemical agents at the end of the Gulf war.

The Pentagon had said it would come up with the estimate on the basis of a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) model charting the size of a poison gas cloud sent up when U.S. troops destroyed a chemical weapons plant in southern Iraq.

The Pentagon has come under growing criticism from Gulf war veterans, U.S. newspaper editorials, and a presidential panel for its reluctant release of information about possible nerve gas exposure.

The issue is an emotional one because more than 20,000 soldiers of the war report suffering from a variety of ailments known collectively as Gulf war Syndrome.

Studies have concluded that the symptoms do not have a single cause, but the discovery more than five years after the fact that U.S. troops may have been exposed to low levels of nerve gas has shaken that conclusion.

Pentagon estimates of the number of troops possibly exposed have risen dramatically since June when it was first announced that chemical weapons were inadvertently destroyed at the Kamisiyah munitions storage area.

The Pentagon also said earlier this month that the figure would "certainly" be more than 15,000, up from initial estimates of 150 to 400 soldiers possibly exposed.



Sara Netanyahu's ex-hubby mixes book

TEL AVIV — The first husband of Sara Netanyahu has dropped plans to write a kiss-and-tell book about their marriage, a friend said. The ex-husband, Doron Neuberger, 37, of Kibbutz Ga'ash, has told him of the decision, kibbutz secretary Danny Kait said. Israel Radio said Mr. Neuberger announced the decision after being told he could not say at the kibbutz if he wrote it. Mr. Kait has denied that Mr. Neuberger had been given an ultimatum. Mr. Neuberger never discussed his book plans in public, but Israeli media reported earlier this month that he decided to write the unflattering memoirs because he was "battered" at reports suggesting she had a say in sensitive affairs of state. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's aides had met several times with Mr. Neuberger in unsuccessful appeals to drop the project. Meanwhile, Netanyahu's elder son Yair was treated at Hadassah University Hospital for dislocation of two front teeth and trauma to his upper lip. The four-year-old boy, who was in great pain, had tripped while running and fallen on his face, a hospital spokesman said. He was brought to the Ein Kerem Hospital by his mother Sara. Later, his father arrived at the hospital as well. Prof. Arye Shitler, a maxillo-facial expert, examined and treated him. He said that there was no danger the teeth would be lost, but asked that the boy be brought back next week for examination. Less than two weeks ago, his younger brother Avner was rushed to Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, where he was treated for a dislocated shoulder. His mother said the injury had occurred when he was playing at home. Doctors quickly reset the bone in its socket and he was taken home — Jerusalem Post.

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Tardiness costs man \$5.8 million

BOSTON (R) — If only he had come forward just three days earlier, Clarence Jackson could have claimed a multi-million dollar fortune. Mr. Jackson, 23, of New Haven, Connecticut, bought the winning ticket to the Friday, Oct. 13, 1995, State Lottery worth \$5.8 million. He showed up at a lottery office Wednesday, Oct. 16, 1996, to claim the prize — three days too late. Connecticut State Lottery rules say the claimant must come forward within one year of the date of the draw. Lottery spokeswoman Laura Gibbs said the state would retain the unclaimed prize money until the situation was resolved. Mr. Jackson's lawyer, David Skolnick, said in a statement his client was a "hard-working young man who lives with, cares for and supports his disabled parents and a large family... To deprive him of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity would simply be unfair and unjust."

Arizona police find van filled with dead scorpions

PHOENIX (R) — U.S. customs officials inspecting a van at the Mexican border found an ice chest filled with thousands of scorpions after a drug-sniffing dog started growling, officials said. There were 12,700 dead scorpions in the box and a nearby water cooler, a U.S. Customs Service spokesman said. Agency spokesman Roger Malar in El Paso, Texas, said the discovery Thursday was surprising, but he could not say if it was illegal to bring dead scorpions into the country. He speculated that arachnids might be used in southwestern motifs or mounted in such items as paper weights.